

# it's a must

Whenever someone declares “Jesus is Lord!”, that person has forfeited the right to decide which of Jesus’ commands they will obey and which they will ignore. To be a disciple of Jesus is to live a “must” life in a “maybe” world, and this series will examine what that looks like.

## Week 4: Love Is A Must!

1. Rick began by saying, “If you are going to join Jesus’ team, then you are going to abide by Jesus’ rules.” Which “rules” of Jesus are easiest and/or the hardest for you to follow? Follow up: **Read John 13:1-15**. What excuses might the disciples have made for not wanting to follow Jesus’ example? What excuses do we tend to make and what does that reveal?
2. **JESUS MEANT... Jesus taught that love is an ought. Read John 13:34-35**. Why is it essential that we live in community with other Christians if we hope to cultivate Christlike love for others? Follow up: Does it surprise you that love is something Jesus commanded (see **1 John 3:11** too)? Why or why not?
3. **THIS MEANS... Love must be more than a feeling**. Why is it crucial that we recognize that love is more than a feeling? Follow up: **Read 1 John 3:18 & Colossians 3:14**. What stands out to you from these verses regarding love? Share some examples of how you’ve witnessed *love as a verb*.
4. **THIS MEANS... Love must stretch more when it is hard. Read Luke 6:32**. With that verse in mind, how does it make you feel knowing that Jesus even washed the feet of Judas in John 13? Follow up: Think for a moment about someone *who makes you have to stretch your love muscles* (don’t name them just think about them). What is something practical you can do this week to “wash their feet”?
5. **THIS MEANS... Love must need more than mere willpower. Love is always a choice, and in some cases it will always be a challenge. Read 1 Thessalonians 3:12 & Romans 5:5**. Why is it significant to remember that *to love like God requires help from God*? When has God helped you to love someone in a way you couldn’t do in your own strength?
6. **THIS MEANS... Love must witness more than anything else. Read John 13:34-35** again. How is loving one another in the church essential to our witness to those outside the church? Follow up: **Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3**. What is one thing you need to change so that you are a better witness to others?
7. **The first thing you must do is let Jesus love you. Read John 13:6-8**. When do you find it most difficult to believe that Jesus loves you? Why is it important to remember that *His love for you is based on his nature, not yours*? Follow up: **Read Ephesians 5:1-2**. What is one thing you plan to do differently to live a life of love this week?

