

# They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love



Text: [John 13:31-35](#)

## I. Introduction

- How does one actually go about the process of identifying Christians?
- How can you identify a Christian?

## II. How Does The Rest Of The World Perceive Christians

- Barna Research – group of non-believing Americans  
44% of unbelievers have a favorable impression of ministers, preachers, priests, rabbis

22% of unbelievers have a favorable impression of evangelical Christians

This number is lower than lawyers, actors, and politicians; only one group was lower - prostitutes

- [1 Timothy 3:7](#)
- The Bible tells us the rest of the world will look upon Christians unfavorably and the faithful will be greatly maligned

## III. Who We Are Speaks So Loudly Perhaps People Can't Hear What We Are Saying

- Churches in Europe are large, *empty* cathedrals
- An Appalachian Mountain church split over a disagreement on whether a refrigerator could make ice or not
- We need to realize that a lot of people aren't attracted to either us or our faith; but we can do something about it
- We need to keep on learning from past mistakes
- We are called to turn the world upside down for Jesus; we cannot afford to be petty in the church
- We keep on trying and when we fail to show our love of Christ, we get up and try again a little harder

## IV. Jesus Himself Said That His Followers Can Be Identified By Their Love

- From our text, Jesus repeated himself three times – love one another, love one another, love one another!
- It is a command, not a request
- Do we make people feel worse because of our failure to live by this commandment?
- If we've never seen Christ, then we've not seen Him in others

## V. Conclusion

- How can you identify a Christian? “By this will all men know that you are My disciples...***if you love one another!***”
- When we minister to the least and lowest in Jesus' blessed name...we don't do it to save their souls, we do it to save ***our own***