

## Love as Jesus Loved

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\*  <https://doi.org/10.54855/csl.22241>

Received: 13/06/2022

Revision: 18/07/2022

Accepted: 21/07/2022

Online: 29/07/2022

### Abstract

In the life of the civilized age, people should use civilization to help each other understand, support, and love each other more, but in reality, people use civilization to destroy each other. So today's Gospel invites each of us to recognize each other in the eyes of true love. To get a loving gaze, one needs to imitate the love of Jesus. If and only if the man can do it.

**Keywords:** Love, God is love, Gospel

<sup>31</sup> Khi Giu-đa ra khỏi phòng tiệc ly, Đức Giê-su nói: “Giờ đây, Con Người được tôn vinh, và Thiên Chúa cũng được tôn vinh nơi Người.

<sup>32</sup> Nếu Thiên Chúa được tôn vinh nơi Người, thì Thiên Chúa cũng sẽ tôn vinh Người nơi chính mình, và Thiên Chúa sắp tôn vinh Người.

<sup>33a</sup> “Hỡi anh em là những người con bé nhỏ của Thầy, Thầy còn ở với anh em một ít lâu nữa thôi.

<sup>34</sup> Thầy ban cho anh em một điều răn mới là anh em hãy yêu thương nhau; anh em hãy yêu thương nhau như Thầy đã yêu thương anh em.

<sup>35</sup> Mọi người sẽ nhận biết anh em là môn đệ của Thầy ở điểm này: là anh em có lòng yêu thương nhau.”

Ga 13, 31-33a.34-35

### Introduction

During the time, human beings are in every period, every gender or every range, all of us agree that love is super strengthen and being over all of the things. The Bible also showed us to determine this: “No flood can extinguish love nor river submerge it.”<sup>1</sup>. So there are many books or songs or poetries that express love, but they cannot give enough meaning.

<sup>1</sup> Dc 8,7



Thus, the love of humans is large. But the love of God is more than that many times. There are some levels of love, then showing how Jesus loves us and the ways we should love each other.

### Kinds of love

There are three kinds of love according to ethics: love of Eros, love of Philia, and love of Agape. The love of Eros is the source of Greek: Erostatas. It means "the intimate love." It is arranged for lustful love or libido (tình yêu dục vọng, sự ham muốn thể xác)<sup>2</sup>. The love of Philia. This kind of love is higher and goes beyond the love of Eros. It is called friendship love because it shows loyal of heart, sacrifice, appreciation, and other forms of 'high', more precious than love that has nothing to do with sex.<sup>3</sup> (Tình yêu này nói lên lòng trung thành, sự hy sinh và thể hiện sự đánh giá cao và các hình thức khác 'cao quý' hơn tình yêu không liên quan đến tình dục). The Love of Agape is the noblest and most superior kind of love. This is considered universal love, giving without asking for anything in return. This love is free, selfless, and charitable even though our object is an enemy to me. Jesus showed this love for humanity. Therefore, Jesus also invites us to love as He loved.

The entire Bible simulates God's love for man, made manifest in the person of Jesus. Today's Gospel shows us that Jesus imitated that love through the love of the Father: "Just as the Father has loved me, so have I loved you, and you also love each other with this love."<sup>4</sup>. This is also the new commandment that Jesus wants from his disciple.

We need to clarify what is the new commandment that the Lord wants to give to the disciples. I give you a new commandment that you love one another. The new commandment about love, in fact, is not new because all love comes from God, and God has exercised that love in many different forms: "God has spoken I the past to our ancestors through the prophets, in many different ways, although never completely; but in our times he has spoken definitively to us through his Son."<sup>5</sup>. So the new commandment here is understood as a new way of love. This way goes far beyond the old love way, the traditional way of love. The culmination of traditional love only stops at the level of justice: an eye for an eye, a commandment for command. This new love has a clear origin: From the Father: Just as the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. This new love is also expressed in Jesus himself.

That is self-destructive love. Saint Paul tells us that he was "innately God." He is equal to the Father and is from all eternity. But He accepted to be human as frail as we are except for sin. Indeed, the Bible shows us the poverty of His birth to a humiliating death on the

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<sup>2</sup> X. <https://el.cm-sobral-monte-agraco.pt/3-types-love-eros>. Truy cập ngày 24/5/2022.

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<sup>4</sup> John 15,9

<sup>5</sup> Hebrews 1,1-2

cross. St. Pholo described it this way: "Jesus Christ was originally God, but... He died on a cross."<sup>6</sup>.

It is love that serves: love that cannot be put into words. In other words, to love one another, we must have a spirit of service to one another. Saint James affirms faith for us "Faith without works is dead faith."<sup>7</sup> Likewise, it is impossible to love without a spirit of service to one another. Jesus taught us how to love through service. He served in many forms and with all different audiences, including those on the margins of society; socially excluded people. For example, Jesus was at the table with sinners; The Lord washed the feet of the disciples: You and the Lord, I wash the feet. Also, wash each other's feet.

That is self-sacrificing love. Because of love, God accepts all human suffering or sins with His own death. The pages of the Gospels also present every detail of His passion: He was counted among sinners and died on the cross. One of the heaviest punishments at that time. However, Jesus still insists on loving people: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."<sup>8</sup>.



Because of that great love, today's Gospel shows us that God has glorified Him and given Him every name that is above every name. For this same reason, he invites his disciples to imitate him in the practice of love.

The way to have "new love". The prerequisite for this love is that there is no shadow of the figure of "Judas". Judas represents lies, hatred, jealousy, envy... because they are contrary to God's love. In life, if we know how to give up the ego, the selfishness, or the bad in us, surely the image of "Judas" (i.e., hatred, jealousy, envy...) will not be able to exist in us. On the contrary, if we glorify our ego, our relationships with everyone, even those close to us, will break down. Because we honor our ego, God will not be able to honor us. Let us, therefore, cast out Judas as the Gospel says: "After Judas came out of the Upper Room."

As a consequence of love, Jesus performed the Father's love immediately. He was glorified by the Father. In life, if we can remove "the figure of Judas" from us and we follow the commandment as the Lord commanded, we will not only receive that consequence right now and now but also in the future. The result is to be glorified by Jesus as the Father has glorified him: Now, the Son of Man is about to be glorified. When he was glorified, he also

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<sup>6</sup> Pl 2,6

<sup>7</sup> Gc 5,22

<sup>8</sup> Lc 23,34

glorified his Father in himself: "God will also be glorified in him." Thus, love is always alive and ever-changing. If we keep the commandments of God, we will also be glorified by God as He promised; at the same time, he himself is glorified through us. It is also to make people know God, and this is also the mission of each of us.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, in the life of the civilized age, people should use civilization to help each other understand, support, and love each other more, but in reality, people use civilization to destroy each other. So today's Gospel invites each of us to recognize each other in the eyes of true love. To get a loving gaze, one needs to imitate the love of Jesus. If and only if the man can do it.

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## Biodata

Fr. Joseph Tran Van Hai is a brother of Augustino's Congregation. After leaving the university, he offered his life to God in the Congregation. During the time, he vowed Solem. Besides, he studied Philosophy and Theology at Saint Thomas' school. Tran Van Hai is now pursuing his Master's degree at the Catholic Institute of Vietnam.