




**Knit Together In  
LOVE**

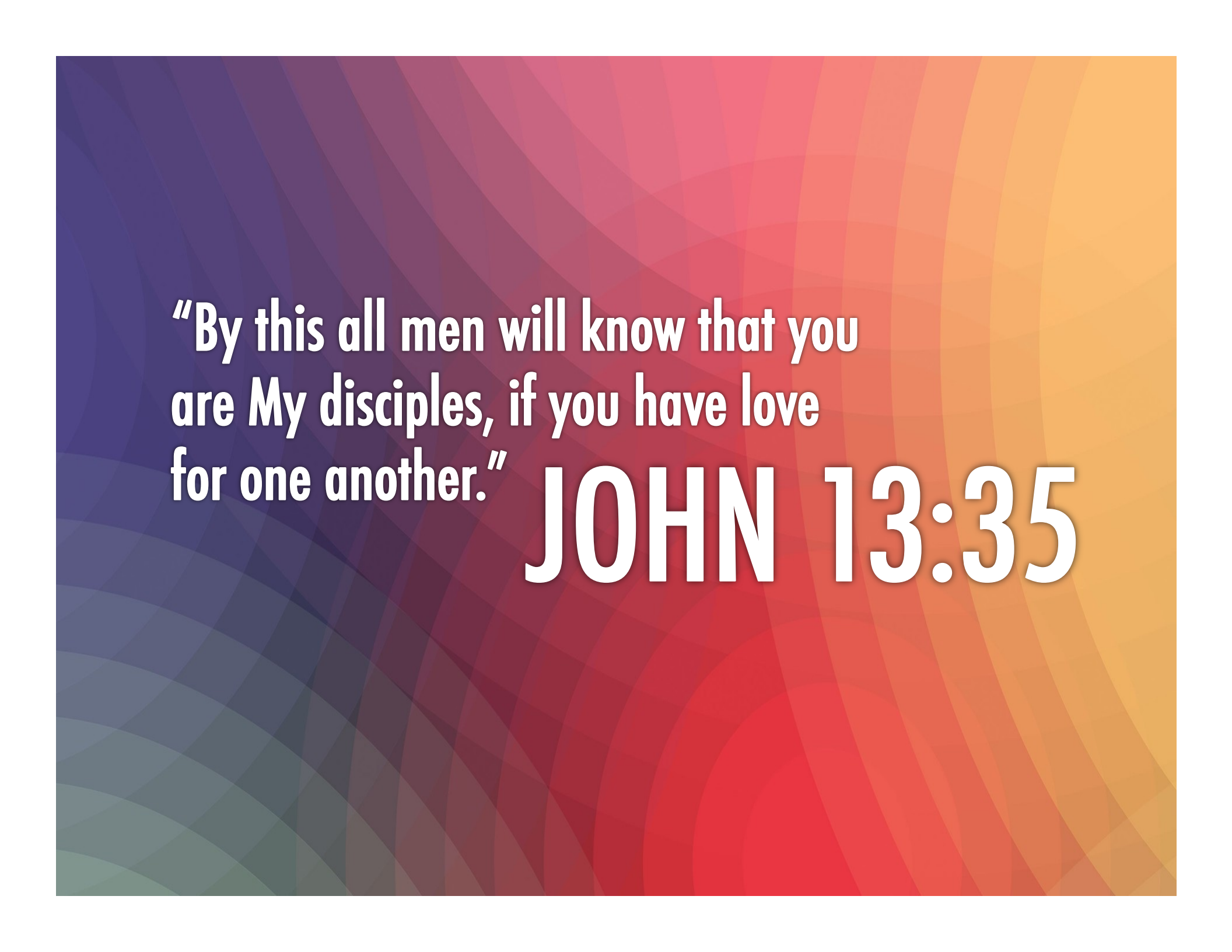
# Relationship Problems

- James describes a scenario in which a man with expensive clothes is given preferential treatment in the worship assembly, while a bedraggled poor man is conveniently shooed into a corner (James 2:1ff).
- If 1<sup>st</sup> Century Jews and Gentiles were expected to overcome their hurdles to church unity and building relationships (Galatians 3:28, 2:11ff, Romans 15:7) then so are we.
- The church in Corinth faced an uphill battle because of their tendency to divide into camps (1 Corinthians 1:10ff).



**"We know love by this, that He laid  
down His life for us; and we ought  
to lay down our lives for the  
brethren"**

**1 JOHN 3:16**



**"By this all men will know that you  
are My disciples, if you have love  
for one another."**

**JOHN 13:35**



# CLIQUEES

Some groups just give off a bad vibe



# My Kind Of People

- If I don't know somebody in a meaningful way, how am I able to lay down my life for him (1 John 3:16), restore him in a time of spiritual failure (Galatians 6:1), or assist him with physical needs (James 2:15-16)?
- Even though it is tempting (and not necessarily a bad thing) to gravitate toward people who are similar to me, I have to leave my comfort zone and focus on the one thing that all Christians share: a bond of unity in Christ (Colossians 3:14-15).



**Spiritual stagnation**

**Getting Left Behind**

**Security blanket**

# A Byproduct Of Obedience

- Our relationships are not merely social, and neither are they optional! They are a natural byproduct of the things we are already commanded to do.
- Visiting widows, for example, is not an optional activity (1 Timothy 5:3ff, James 1:27), and neither is encouraging weaker members (1 Thessalonians 5:14, Galatians 6:1).
- Not only am I obeying God, but I am also building friendships, relating to people, and establishing and displaying love for people I might otherwise have never even known.



# ROMANS 12:3-16

Weeping and Laughing Together

