

Regenerate

Oh, that You would bless *my community*, indeed, and enlarge *our* territory, that Your hand would be with *my community*, and that You would keep *my community*, from evil, that we may not cause pain! Amen.

- the prayer of Jabez from 1 Chronicles 4: 10)



“the visible sign”

Scripture: John 13: 33- 35 (NIV)

³³“My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

³⁴ A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”



“Through the centuries humans have displayed many different symbols to show they are Christians. They have worn marks in the lapels of their coats, hung chains about their necks, even had special haircuts.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with any of this, if one feels it is their calling. But there is a much better sign ... it is a universal mark that is to last through all the ages of the church till Jesus comes back.

At the close of his ministry, Jesus looks forward to his death on the cross, the open tomb, and the ascension. Knowing that he is about to leave, Jesus prepares his disciples for what is to come. It is here that he makes clear what will be the distinguishing mark of the Christian. (Read the scripture passage from John 13: 33- 35)

This passage reveals the mark that Jesus gives to label a Christian not just in one era or in one locality but at all times and in all places until Jesus returns.”

- Excerpt from The Mark of the Christian, by Francis Schaeffer , p. 13- 14

Reflection Questions

What speaks to you from either the reading or the Scripture passage?

What does it mean to love one another like Jesus?

How are we (Great Bridge UMC) making God’s love visible for our congregation and for our community?

What do we sense that God is calling us to do in response to God’s love?