

# The Power of One

## *The Power of One Rule*

*From an outsider's perspective, the rules of religion can seem pretty complicated. Take Christianity for instance. The Hebrew half of the Bible has over 300 thou shalt not rules that not only include the Ten Commandments, there are rules for what you can and cannot eat, what material of clothes you can or cannot wear, and rules about where you can or cannot worship. How are you supposed to remember all of those rules? In this week's conversation, we'll look at how Jesus boiled it all down to one rule. Just one.*

John 13:31–35

1. The Hebrew Bible has \_\_\_\_\_ laws, \_\_\_\_\_ thou shalt nots and \_\_\_\_\_ thou shalt's.
2. Jesus made the Love God and Love Neighbor commands \_\_\_\_\_.
3. John 13:34 is the one rule that set Christianity apart from \_\_\_\_\_ in the world.
4. In essence, Christianity has one \_\_\_\_\_ and one \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Believe in Jesus ... Love as Jesus loved*

### ***My Count Me In! Commitments***

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I will embrace a new standard for being a Christian:  
One belief, One rule.
- I want to become a deeper disciple of Jesus ...  
Sign me up for the Directions Discipleship Class
- I will deliberately engage in an act of sacrificial love this week  
– one that's above and beyond what I would otherwise do

### **Additional Notes**

## Digging Deeper, Going Further

### *The Power of One: One Rule*

**Scripture:** John 13:31–35

**Introduction:** From an outsider’s perspective, the rules of religion can seem pretty complicated. Take Christianity for instance. The Hebrew half of the Bible has over 300 thou shalt not rules that not only include the Ten Commandments, there are rules for what you can and cannot eat, what material of clothes you can or cannot wear, and rules about where you can or cannot worship. How are you supposed to remember all of those rules? Christianity hasn’t been much better. Over the years there have been rules about dancing, playing cards, drinking alcohol, and so many more. But what if there was just one rule that ruled all the rules? How simple would that be?

1. What are the things you believe you have to do to get eternal life?
2. What are some of the rules of the church and/or Christianity that you were raised with?
3. Read John 13:31–35. Jesus says this is a “new” commandment. What was new about it?
4. Read Matthew 25:31–40. According to this parable that Jesus told, what was the sole criteria for the “sheep” getting their eternal inheritance?
5. Dr. Bill said that Jesus practiced tough love. What are some examples of his tough love in the Gospels?
6. Why do you think the church has emphasized “right belief” over “right behavior” over the past few centuries?
7. What would the church be like if everyone practiced Jesus’ brand of love with one another? What needs to change for this to become a reality?

***Who will you invite to worship with you this week?***

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