

April 7, 2022

Keep It Simple

[John 13:31-35](#)

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

KISS, an acronym for “keep it simple, stupid,” is a design principle noted by the US Navy in 1960. The KISS principle states that most systems work best if they are kept simple rather than made complicated. Therefore simplicity should be a key goal in design and unnecessary complexity should be avoided.

In this familiar scripture, Jesus is gathered around the table with his disciples. The end is near and Jesus is giving them his final instructions. He tells them they must love one another.

Didn't Jesus mention this previously as being a high priority? Now that he is preparing to leave them, surely he has volumes of instructions. There is so much to do and the disciples always had questions.

If they are expected to continue the work of Jesus, it would be most helpful if there was a manual to follow. However, Jesus decided to follow the KISS principle – simply love one another. It may be simple, but that doesn't mean it is easy.

We encounter people throughout our lives who look different and think differently than we do. They do things that offend us and hurt us. Surely, we are not called to love “those” people.

Following the KISS principle, we are not encouraged to develop an elaborate system to discern who should and should not be loved. We simply follow the example of Christ and love one another. Don't make it complicated.

Prayer: *Gracious God, help us see the strength and beauty of simply loving one another. We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord. We pray that our unity will one day be restored, and they'll know we are Christians by our love. Amen.*

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