The Key to Happiness: Listening to the Teacher!

In each of the following Scripture passages, Jesus takes up an older ethical standard and “re-creates” it according to a new standard of love—the standard of his Passion and death on a Cross. We call this love *agape*, the highest ethical standard and form of self-giving love. Read each passage with your group and then describe the established standard and compare it with the new standard of love.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Scripture Passage | The “old” standard  | The new standard: *agape* |
| Matthew 5:21–24 |  |  |
| Matthew 5:27–30 |  |  |
| Matthew 5:38–42 |  |  |
| Matthew 5:43–48 |  |  |
| Mark 12:28–31 |  |  |
| Luke 10:29–37 |  |  |
| John 8:1–11 |  |  |
| John 13:34–35 |  |  |

What new insights into Jesus the Teacher do you have after reviewing these Scripture passages? Use specific evidence from the Scripture passages to support your view.