

## Love the Key to a God Relationship

### John 15:9-17

9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. 17 These things I command you, that you love one another. NKJV

- I. What Jesus did for them.
  - A. He loved them as the Father loved Him v-9
    - 1. Wow, can you imagine that type, that degree of love!
    - 2. A perfect love, an eternal love.
  - B. He offers them His joy, a full joy v-11
    - 1. God is the only one that is truly happy for only God is holy.
    - 2. But Jesus here offers them His joy, HIS JOY.
      - a. Not a joy of their own making.
      - b. Not a joy that is full for a few minutes but one that fills us and flows from us.
    - 3. Rom 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
    - 4. 1 Peter 1:7-9 Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith — the salvation of your souls. NKJV
  - C. He would lay down His life for them. v-13
  - D. They were not to be servants but friends. v-15
    - 1. All things that He had heard from the Father, He made known to them. v-15
  - E. He had chosen them, they had not chosen Him. v-16

- F. He had appointed them to bear fruit. v-16
    - 1. The sadness of fruitfulness.
    - 2. So many find no purpose in life or find that their purpose was empty.
  - G. He had promised to answer their prayers. v-16
    - 1. As we have seen before, Jesus wants for them to be joyful and successful.
    - 2. But His definition may be different than theirs.
  - H. He had given them the most noble commandment. v-17, 12
    - 1. By this shall all men know you are my disciples because of you love for one another.
    - 2. Notice that the primary is one another.
    - 3. To live above with saints we love, oh that will be glory, but to dwell below with saints we know, now that's another story.
- II. What were they to do now?
- A. They were to abide in His love. v-9
    - 1. Here we have this word abide again.
      - a. John uses this word more than any of the other gospels, 36 times and 11 are found in John 15.
    - 2. It is His love that we remain in.
    - 3. We do not get to develop our own system of love, we are to love as He loved us.
    - 4. The word means to love without conditions.
    - 5. It is easy to love those who love us, even though the world cannot even do that very well.
  - B. They were to keep His commandments. v-10
    - 1. By this their love was proved. v-10
      - a. Without obedience, we cannot demonstrate our love for Him.
      - b. We can talk about it, teach about it, and even command and expect it of others.
      - c. But without obedience to His commands we cannot prove we are abiding in His love.
    - 2. By this their friendship was proved. v-14

- a. There were His friends and their obedience, even to death would ultimately prove it.
  - b. God want us as friends, loyal friends.
  - c. Not fair weather friends.
- C. They were to love one another. v-12, 17
- 1. This was the proof of the pudding.
  - 2. Matt 19:16-22

16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"

17 So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."

18 He said to Him, "Which ones?"

Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 19 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

20 The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?"

21 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

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