

“ABIDE IN HIS LOVE”

I. John 15:9-17

A. The setting of today's text is the Last Supper; the First Communion...

- 1) John devotes 5 chapters to this meal setting: Chapters 13 thru 17...
- 2) So much takes place on this evening, it bears reading over and over...

B. John 15:9-17 is jam-packed...

- 1) V9 *As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love.*
- 2) He's not saying: *'Work hard to keep My commandments so that I will love you.'* He's saying: *'Because I love you so deeply, you'll be naturally driven to keep My commands.'* Abiding in His love is the driver behind our obedience...
- 3) Abiding in the love of Christ brings an inherent joy that elsewhere in Scripture is called *unspeakable*... Joy causes our hearts to overflow in thankful obedience...
- 4) V12 *This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.* Galatians 5:13-14; Romans 13:8-10... Quotes by Max Lucado and John Calvin...
- 5) V13 *Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.* By this time tomorrow Jesus will have demonstrated this... Ephesians 2:4-7...
- 6) Be sure of this, nothing we did compelled God to send His Son to die; nothing we did compelled Him to make us alive in Christ; nothing we did removed His wrath and seated us positionally with Christ in heavenly places. *'As the Father loved the Son, so has Christ Jesus loved us!'* Love compelled Him!
- 7) V14 *You are My friends if you do what I command you.* (Not: *'If you do what I command you, then I'll consider you my friends.'* Instead hear: *'Because I've turned you from enemies into friends, your obedience will be evident.'*) Romans 5:6-11...

C. Here's some pretty good evidence we're abiding in Jesus:

- 1) Because He has manifested His love and mercy so lavishly richly upon us, we cannot help but be compelled to love others... (It's bound to leak out...)
- 2) Because He has forgiven us for such rebellious hostility and egregious sins, we cannot help but forgive those who have sinned against us...
- 3) Because He has been so generous with us, we cannot help but be generous with others... *Freely we have received and so freely we give*...
- 4) Because He came not to be served but to serve and give His life a ransom for others, we cannot help but lay down our lives, pick up our crosses daily, and endeavor to serve others in joyful gratitude and humble imitation...

II. Communion

A. The Bread and the Cup are tangible reminders of all He has done for us...

- 1) The Bread & Cup remind us who we once were...
- 2) The Bread & Cup remind us who we now are...
- 3) The Bread & Cup remind us how we went from being what we once were to who we now are and that is overwhelming, humbling, astonishing and amazing all at the same time... This news is better than good--it's transformational!
- 4) The Bread & Cup remind us: *'As the Father has loved Jesus, so has Jesus loved us. Let us, therefore, abide in His love.'* And likewise--love one another...

B. Pray and serve Communion... Benediction Meditation by G. Campbell Morgan...

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

John 15:9-17 (ESV)

9 As the Father has loved me, so have I 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 be 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, that someone lay down his life for his friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command you. **15** No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have 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 abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. **17** These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

Galatians 5:13-14 (NIV)

13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. **14** For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Romans 13:8-10 (ESV)

8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. **9** For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **10** Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Ephesians 2:4-7 (ESV)

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Romans 5:6-11 (ESV)

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— **8** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. **10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. **11** More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Quote by Max Lucado

"We treat others the way we perceive that God is treating us..."

Quote by John Calvin

"For where love is wanting, the beauty of all virtue is mere tinsel, is empty sound, is not worth a straw, nay more, is offensive and disgusting."

G. Campbell Morgan on Love

Joy is love's consciousness.
Peace is love's confidence.
Patience is love's habit.
Kindness is love's vitality.
Goodness is love's activity.
Faithfulness is love's quantity.
Meekness is love's tone.
Temperance is love's victory.

Some Excellent Video Clips

What Does It Mean To Love? - John Piper

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXDatlXO2kg>

"How He Loves" David Crowder Sermon Jam, with Matt Chandler

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUUmhnOPBdE>

"Passion Song" by Sean Carter

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzatBcvbohQ>

Showing Love Is Like Breathing - John Piper

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcRxLKSuzPw>

Bonus Stuff

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (ESV)

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. **17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. **18** All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; **19** that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. **20** Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. **21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

William Barclay on Agape Love

"The real meaning of *agape* is unconquerable benevolence. If we regard a person with *agape*, it means that nothing that that person can or will ever do will make us seek anything but his highest good." - Daily Study Bible, Ephesians, p.164.

Quote by Donald Danford

"Love is the light that casts a shadow on the sun." - Christian Herald, June 1975, p.20.

Quote by C. S. Lewis

"When I have learnt to love God better than my earthly dearest, I shall love my earthly dearest better than I do now." - Secret Country of C.S. Lewis, p.109.

With Respect To Love

Love has a hem on its garment

That reaches the very dust;

It touches the dirt of the streets and lanes

And because it can, it must.

- Unknown Author, Pentecostal Evangel, May 25, 1975, p.7