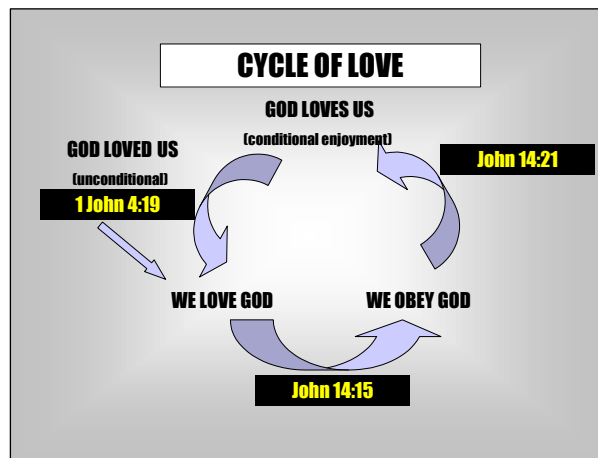


“THE JOY OF LOVING RELATIONSHIPS”

John 15:9-17 Lesson #7



“Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.”
John 15:9

Jesus models the two commands He gives to us:

1. Jesus was a recipient of the Father’s love.
“Abide in My love” (15:9b) – Be a recipient.
2. Jesus was a channel of the Father’s love.
“Love one another” (15:12) – Be a channel.

1 WE ARE COMMANDED TO ABIDE IN GOD’S LOVE, THE WAY JESUS DID, 15:9B-11.

- A. We have a responsibility to abide in Christ’s love, 15:9b.

.....abide in My love.

1. Continue to enjoy Christ’s love.
2. It’s imperative – we are commanded to abide in His love. It’s our responsibility.

(How do we carry out our responsibility? See v. 10 !)

- B. We continue to enjoy Christ’s love by obeying Him, 15:10-11.

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 so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full.

1. Nature of the condition: “If you keep My commandments”
 - a. What are His commandments? Decalogue; many NT imperatives; All are summed up in one word – love (Rom. 13:8-10); See the New Commandment, Jn 13:34-35.

- b. What is meant by “keep” His commandments?
Does “keep” require that I keep all of them perfectly (and never sin)?
Not outward perfection, but an inward longing of the heart to be fully conformed to His will.
 - c. How do we keep His commandments?
The motivation? His love.
The method? His power within me.. Primarily the New Commandment.
2. Results of meeting the condition:
- a. “you will abide in My love,” 15:10
 - b. "your joy may be made full," 15:11

2 WE ARE COMMANDED TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER, THE WAY JESUS DID, 15:12-17.

A. The new commandment was modeled by Jesus, 15:12

This is My commandment, that you love one another, **just as** I have loved you.

- 1. Nature of the new commandment to love one another:
 - a. Singular – because the whole law is fulfilled in one command => love.
 - b. “Love” is very ambiguous in English.
What kinds of actions demonstrate pure love for other believers in this church?
- 2. Newness of the new commandment to love one another:
 - a. Old commandment to love --- as yourself
 - b. New commandment to love --- as I have loved you.
Origin – from Him; Example – the way Jesus loved.

How did Jesus love?

B. Christlike love displays certain characteristics, 15:13-16

- 1. Christlike love sacrifices for one another, 15:13

Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

We think of His death, but He was still alive and showed His love. We don't need Christians to lay down their lives in death; we need Christians to lay down their lives in life!

Live a life of self-sacrifice for other people in Jesus' name.

When we sacrifice for sake of someone else, we are to refrain from self-pity and resentment. Examples: A husband who gives up his time to be with his wife and family. Giving time to homeless shelter or money to missionaries.

2. Christlike love shares with one another, 15:14-15

¹⁴You are My friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.

- a. “You are My friends” shows a special relationship with Jesus, like Abraham (cf. James 2:23; Isa.41:8; 2 Chron.20:7).
- b. A mark of friendship is sharing. Here on this night before He was crucified, Jesus shared the inner secrets of His heart to show their special relationship to Him.

Friendships share wealth, responsibilities, materials things, and especially transparency of our lives and our needs.

3. Christlike love seeks fruit in one another, 15:16

You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

- a. Chosen & appointed by Jesus to bear fruit that remains.
- b. The result is that our prayers to the Father will be granted.

CONCLUSION:

This I command you, that you love one another.

See 1 John.

Next Session: John 15:18—16:4 “Cultural Encounters”