

“If Ye Love Me”
John 14:15-18

Introduction:

1. Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles:
 - To John 14 This Morning:
 - Where We've Been Brought Into:
 - The Upper Room:
 - With Jesus & His Disciples:
 - To Listen In To Jesus' Final Words:
 - To Them - Before His Death On The Cross!
 - And - Just Like It Would Be:
 - For Anyone Close & Special To Us:
 - His Last Words:
 - Were Special Words!
 - His Last Words:
 - Were Important Words!
2. If You Remember:
 - Chapter 13 Describes:
 - The Great Service:
 - Of The Lord:
 - At The Last Supper!
 - Whereas - Chapter 14 Describes:
 - The Great Sayings:
 - Of The Lord:
 - At The Last Supper!
 - And So Far - In This - His Last:
 - “Discourse With His Disciples” - Jesus:
 - Has Covered A Lot Of Ground!
3. But - Both His Service & His Sayings:
 - Were Proof Of What The Apostle John Told Us:
 - All The Way Back In 13:1:
 - That Jesus:
 - “Having Loved His Own Which Were In The World – He Loved Them Unto The End!”
 - And So - Everything That:
 - Jesus Did & Everything That:
 - Jesus Said - In That Room:
 - On That Night:
 - Was A Further Evidence & Expression Of His Love!
4. And So - When We Come To:
 - 14:15-18 This Morning:
 - We Find That It Was Time For Jesus:
 - To Give His Disciples:
 - A Check & A Test!
 - To See How They Would Respond To:
 - His Service & Sayings Of Love!
 - **IE:** Just Like Any Test You Might Take - To See What You Know & What You've Learned! *Pop Quiz!*
 - And So - Jesus First Says In 14:15:
 - These Familiar Words:
 - “If ye love me, keep my commandments!”
 - And So - The First Thing Jesus Wants To Check Is:
1. ***The Affection Of His Disciples!***
 - Their Affection & Love:
 - For Him!
 - “If You Love Me” - Jesus Says!
 - Now - Even Though This Is *Not*:
 - A Test Question - Like The One Jesus Will Ask Peter Later On:

- In John 21 - Three Times - "Lovest Thou Me?"
- It Is Still A Test:
 - For His Disciples!
 - Because - Jesus Knows That In Just A Few Hours Time:
 - Their Faith & Love Will Be *Put To* The Test!
 - And So - He Wants Them To:
 - Personally Reassess Their Own Love:
 - For Him!
- But - What Does This:
 - Have To Do With:
 - What Jesus Has Been Talking About:
 - Earlier?
 - I Think John Himself Tells Us:
 - The Connection Between 14:15 & The Rest Of The Chapter:
 - When He Writes In 1 John 4:19:
 - "We Love Him Because He First Loved Us!"
- You See - Every Word Jesus Said:
 - In This Chapter:
 - Was Said In Love!
 - Even When - At The Beginning:
- When Jesus Confronts:
 - The Fears & Faith Of His Disciples!
 - 14:1 - "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me!"
 - Jesus Confronted Them:
 - Out Of Love!
 - And Even:
- When Jesus Critiques:
 - The Understanding Of His Disciples!
 - In 14:7 - "If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also!"
 - Jesus Critiqued Them:
 - Because He Loved Them!
 - So - Even When Jesus Words:
 - Seemed Negative:
 - They Were Actually Meant:
 - To Be Corrective!
 - Because He Loved Them!
 - Of Course - Most Of Jesus Words:
 - Were More Positive & Encouraging!
 - To Them & To Us! So:
- When Jesus Comforted:
 - His Disciples:
 - He Comforted Them:
 - Out Of Love!
 - Which Is Why In 14:2-3 - He Tells Them:
 - "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. / And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also!"
 - But Also:
- When Jesus Confirmed:
 - His Disciples - And - Reassured Them:
 - That They Did Know Something:
 - About Him! And - They Knew Enough:
 - To Believe In Him & Be Saved!
 - Jesus Confirmed Them:
 - Because He Loved Them!
 - Which Is Why In 14:4 - He Told Them:
 - "And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know!"

- But - Even:
- When Jesus Challenged:
 - His Disciples - Which Is What We Looked At:
 - Last Time - From 14:12-14:
 - The Challenge To:
 - Pursue After His Bold Promise Through Prayer!
 - Jesus Made This Challenge:
 - To All Of His Disciples:
 - Because - 13:1 - “Having Loved His Own Which Were In The World – He Loved Them Unto The End!”
- So - Everything Jesus *Said*:
 - Up Until Now:
 - Jesus Said To Prove To Us That:
 - He “First Loved Us!”
 - In Fact - Everything Jesus *Did*:
 - Up Until Now:
 - Throughout His Entire Life & Ministry!
 - He Did To Prove To Us That:
 - He “First Loved Us!”
 - And Now - In 14:15:
 - It Was Time For Jesus:
 - To Check If His Disciples:
 - Loved Him Too! *Pop Quiz!*
 - So - Even Though:
 - This Is Not A Test Question:
 - It Is Still A Call To Assess:
 - Your Own Response To & Relationship With:
 - Jesus Christ!
 - “If You Love Me!”
 - *Do* You Love Him?
 - Because - He Certainly Loves You!
 - *Will* You Love Him?
 - Because - He “First Loved You!”
 - In Any Relationship:
 - The Desire Is For Love:
 - To Be Returned! Not Spurned!
 - And So - This Is The First Thing:
 - That Jesus Wants To ‘Check’ And Test:
 - In Your Heart & Life!
 - Your Own Love & Affection:
 - For Him!
 - “If You Love Me!”
 - But Then - As Jesus Himself Demonstrates:
 - Real Affection Will Be Expressed:
 - Not Just In Words:
 - But In Actions!
 - That Is - Real Love:
 - Is Revealed Love!
 - And So - The Next Thing Jesus Wants To Check Is:

2. ***The Allegiance Of His Disciples!***

- Their Allegiance & Obedience:
 - To Him!
 - 14:15 - “If Ye Love Me, Keep My Commandments!”
 - **IE:** One Of The First Songs That I Remember Learning As A Child - Other Than “Jesus Loves Me” Was - “O How I Love Jesus!”
 - Though Many Truths In Both Of Those Songs! Real Love In Both Is Revealed Love!

- Jesus Revealed His Love To Me & To You Through His Death! Now I Can Reveal My Love For Him In My Life! Of Obedience! And So Can You!
- But - What Commandments Are You To Keep:
 - If You Really Love Jesus?
 - Of Course - The Big Commandment That We Already Looked At:
 - In John Is - 13:34 - "A New Commandment I Give Unto You, That Ye Love One Another; As I Have Loved You, That Ye Also Love One Another!"
 - And Certainly - This Is One Of:
 - The Commandments:
 - That We Are To Obey:
 - In Order To Express Our Love For Jesus!
 - But - Jesus Does Not Just Say Here:
 - "Keep My Commandment!"
 - He Says - "Keep My Commandments!"
- What Other Commandments:
 - Should You Keep In Order To:
 - Express Your Love For Jesus?
 - Well - In Many Ways:
 - The Commands Of Jesus:
 - That We Find In John:
 - Are Similar To The Ten Commandments Of The Old Testament!
 - In The Ten Commandments:
 - There Are Commandments:
 - That Deal With Your Responsibilities Toward God!
 - And - There Are Commandments:
 - That Deal With Your Responsibilities Toward Man!
 - But - In All Of Jesus' Commands:
 - Your Responsibilities Toward Both God & Man Are Centered On & Focused On:
 - Jesus Christ & Your Relationship With Him!
 - Because - Through Jesus, They Are Fulfilled!
 - And - The Very First Command Of Jesus:
 - That We Must Obey Is:
 - The Command Of Faith!
 - Isn't This What Jesus Told His Disciples:
 - Already In That Upper Room?
 - Back In 14:1 - "Believe In God! Believe Also In Me!"
 - Faith In Jesus:
 - Is, Perhaps, The Very First Expression:
 - Of Love For Jesus!
 - Love For Him - Because He First Loved You!
 - In All Of His Words - And:
 - In All Of His Works!
 - And - Especially His Work Of Redemption On The Cross!
 - And - To Show Your Love & Allegiance:
 - To Christ - Keep Believing In - And:
 - Trusting In Him!
 - But Then - He Gives Us:
 - The Command To Follow!
 - Even As He Gave To Philip:
 - Back In 1:43 - When He First Called Him:
 - "Follow Me" - He Says!
 - And This Too - Is One Of His Commands:
 - To Each One Of Us!
 - If You Love Me - Believe In Me:
 - And Just Follow Me!
 - And - Along With That:
 - He Gives Us:
 - The Command For Fellowship!

- A Bit Later - Jesus Will Urge His Disciples:
 - In 15:4 - To - "Abide In Me!"
 - Not Just Follow Him:
 - But Dwell With Him!
 - In Close, Personal, Intimate Fellowship!
- This Too Is One Of His Commands!
 - And - If You Love Him:
 - You Will Want To Experience:
 - This Kind Of Relationship:
 - With Him!
- And So - As You Love Jesus:
 - And Obey His Commands:
 - Of Faith & Following & Fellowship!
 - Love For Jesus Even Fulfils:
 - The Responsibilities You Have Toward God In The Ten Commandments!
 - Which Is To "Love The Lord Thy God With All Thy Heart, And With All Thy Soul, And With All Thy Mind, And With All Thy Strength!" (Mark 12:30)
- Only Then Can You Strive To Obey:
 - The Command Of Feeling!
 - That Is - The Feeling Of Love:
 - For Others - That Jesus Gave Us:
 - In 13:34 - "That Ye Love One Another; As I Have Loved You, That Ye Also Love One Another!"
 - Because - Love For Christ:
 - Is What Will Bring Forth This:
 - Love For Other Christians!
 - And So - As You Love Jesus:
 - It Will Bring Forth Love:
 - That Will Fulfil The Responsibilities You Have Toward Others In The Ten Commandments!
 - Which Is To "Love Thy Neighbor As Thyself!" (Mark 12:31)
- If You Can Sing - "O How I Love Jesus!"
 - Then - With All Of Your Heart:
 - Strive To Express Your Love:
 - Not Just In Word, But In This Kind Of:
 - Allegiance & Obedience!
 - But - Even His Commands:
 - Are Not A Condition:
 - For His Love!
 - But Are A Way For You To Express:
 - Your Love For Him!
 - How True It Is:
 - That In Jesus:
 - "His Yoke Is Easy, And His Burden Is Light!"
 - Because All Of His Commands To Us Are Centered In Him!
 - But - Jesus Knows That:
 - We Will Struggle With:
 - Our Affections & Allegiance:
 - To Him! That Is:
 - Our Love & Obedience!
 - And So - The Next Thing:
 - That Jesus Wants To Check Is:

3. *The Aptitude Of His Disciples!*

- Even - The Aptitude & Desire:
 - To Love & To Obey Him!
 - **IE:** Ever Take An Aptitude Test? Color Test!
 - You See - Even If You Do Love Jesus & Try To Obey Jesus - Jesus Himself Knows:

- That You Can't Do It On Your Own!
- And That Is Why:
 - In Almost The Same Breath:
 - Jesus Adds - 14:16 - "And I Will Pray The Father!"
 - And - Once Again - We Are Back To Jesus' Love!
 - Because - He Tells Us About:
- A Special Prayer!
 - Even To His Father:
 - Which He Knows That:
 - His Father Will Hear & Will Answer!
 - And This Prayer:
 - Is All About Enabling You:
 - To Love & To Obey Him As You Should!
 - And So - Jesus Will Offer:
 - This Special Prayer - For:
- A Special Provision!
 - 14:16 - "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter!"
 - You See - As We Are Told In Psalm 103:14:
 - Jesus "Knoweth Our Frame; He Remembereth That We Are Dust!"
 - And So - He Knows That You Need Someone To Be Both Your Advocate / Assistant!
 - "Paraclete" - To Come Alongside!
 - **IE**: Soccer Injury! Not Just Helped But Carried! As I Stumble!
 - And So - Jesus Tells Us That:
 - In Answer To His Prayer:
 - God The Father Would Send Someone:
 - That Would Help Them:
 - In His Absence!
 - You See - When Jesus Was With Them:
 - In This World:
 - He Was Their Comforter!
 - He Was Their Advocate & Assistant! Came To & By Them!
 - How Many Times:
 - Did He Help Them With:
 - Their Struggles With Faith & Fear & Following Him!
 - How Often Did He:
 - Teach Them & Train Them:
 - In Much Patience & Love!
 - Well Now That Jesus Was About To Depart:
 - They Would Receive:
 - "Another Comforter!"
 - Just Like Him!
 - But - Unlike Him:
 - He Would Provide To Them:
- A Special Presence!
 - Even As We Find Next In:
 - 14:16 - "That He May Abide With You Forever!"
 - And - Jesus Even Tells Them:
 - How He Will Abide With Them!
 - Because - In 14:17 - Not Only Does He Say:
 - That This Comforter:
 - "Dwelleth With You" - But That He Will Even "Be In You!"
 - Now - You Can't Get Any Closer Than That!
 - As Jesus Talked About:
 - His Father Dwelling In Him & He Dwelling In His Father!
 - Jesus Says - Something Like That Will Be True About Them & This Comforter!
 - But - Who Is This Comforter?

- A Special Person!
 - As He Tells Us In:
 - 14:17 - The Comforter Is:
 - “Even The Spirit Of Truth; Whom The World Cannot Receive, Because It Seeth Him Not, Neither Knoweth Him: But Ye Know Him!”
 - The “Spirit Of Truth” Is:
 - The Holy Spirit Of God!
 - The Third Person Of The Trinity:
 - Who Will Continue The Ministry Of Truth That Jesus Had Started With Them!
 - Remember Back In:
 - 14:6 - Jesus Said:
 - “I Am The Way & The Truth & The Life!”
 - And Here - In 14:17 - The Spirit Is The Spirit:
 - Of That Same Truth!
 - His Character:
 - Is Truth! And So:
 - All He Communicates:
 - Is Truth!
 - And - The Connection Between:
 - Jesus & The Comforter:
 - Is So Close - That Jesus Even Tells His Disciples:
 - “Ye Know Him” Already!
 - Because - As They Saw:
 - The Works Of Jesus:
 - The Saw The Works Of:
 - His Father & Even Of The Holy Spirit!
 - Because - They Worked:
 - Together - As One!
 - And - When They Heard:
 - The Words Of Jesus:
 - They Heard The Words Of:
 - His Father & Of The Holy Spirit Too!
 - Because - They All Spoke:
 - Together - As One:
 - Through Jesus!
 - And So - All They Needed:
 - In Jesus - They Would Find:
 - In This Comforter - The Holy Spirit Of Truth:
 - Who Will Not Just Dwell With Them, As He Already Had!
 - But Will Be In Them!
 - And - This Was Fulfilled In:
 - Acts 2 - On The Day Of Pentecost!
 - When The Holy Spirit Was Poured Out & Into The People Of His Church!
 - And So - The Presence Of The Holy Spirit:
 - Remains With Every Christian:
 - To Help You - To Believe & Love & Obey / And As You Believe & Love & Obey:
 - The Lord!
 - And Yet - Even Though:
 - This Special Presence Will Be Enough!
 - For Them & For Us!
 - Jesus Goes Even Further To Give Us:
- Another Special Promise!
 - 14:18 - “I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you!”
 - Another Way To Put This Is:
 - Jesus Will Not Leave You:
 - As Orphans In This World!
 - When You Respond To Jesus’ Love:

- Through Faith In Him:
 - You Belong To Him:
 - And You Will Never Be Left Alone!
- And - The Holy Spirit:
 - Is Part Of The Fulfilment:
 - Of That Promise!
 - And Yet - Jesus Still Says:
 - “I Will Come To You!”
 - That Is - He Will Come To Us:
 - Himself!
- No Doubt - Jesus Refers To:
 - The Time Of His Return:
 - From Heaven - That He Already Told Us About In 14:3!
 - “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also!”
 - Jesus Will Return:
 - Because He Loves Us!
- And - Jesus May Also Be Referring To:
 - The Time Of His Resurrection:
 - Which Will Take Place Just A Few Days From When He Said These Words!
 - And This Will Bring His Disciples Great Joy!
 - Jesus Was Going To Reveal Himself:
 - Because He Loved Them!
- But - What About The Rest Of The Time?
 - Between His Resurrection & His Return?
 - And - What About The Rest Of Us?
 - When Jesus Says - “I Will Come To You” - I Believe He Also Means In & Through:
 - The Holy Spirit Himself!
- So - Just As The Father Is In The Son & The Son Is In The Father:
 - As He Told Us 14:11 - The Same Is True:
 - About Jesus & The Holy Spirit!
 - When The Holy Spirit Came To Dwell In The Church & In Every Christian:
 - Jesus Came Too! In Fact - The Holy Spirit Is Even Called:
 - The “Spirit Of Christ!” (Romans 8:9)
 - So - To Have The Spirit Of Truth:
 - In Your Life - Is To Have:
 - Jesus Christ Himself!
 - And - To Know The Spirit Of Truth:
 - In Your Heart - Is To Know:
 - Jesus Christ Himself!
 - And - To Be Led By The Spirit Of Truth:
 - Is To Be Led By:
 - Jesus Christ Himself!

Conclusion:

1. And So - When Jesus Checks & Tests:
 - Your Own Affection & Love For Him!
 - As Well As - Your Own Allegiance & Obedience To Him!
 - Remember That - He Already Knows:
 - Your Aptitude For Both!
 - In & By Yourself:
 - You Are Weak!
 - Weak In Your Love & Weak In Your Obedience!
 - Know This All Too Well!
2. But - Jesus Did Not Leave You:
 - To Be An Orphan In This World!
 - Without Hope Or Help:

- In Your Walk With Him!
- Not Only Did He Send:
 - The Holy Spirit:
 - To Help & Comfort You!
 - He Came Himself:
 - Through The Spirit!
- 3. And So - When You Struggle:
 - With These Tests Of Your Own:
 - Affection & Allegiance & Aptitude:
 - Remember What Jesus Said In Matthew 28:20:
 - “And, Lo, I Am With You Always, Even Unto The End Of The World!”
 - And He Will Continue To Help You:
 - Until You Finally:
 - Pass These Tests!

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