
No Greater Love

John 15:9-17 (Page 85 in the black Bibles)

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Introduction:

Last week Pastor Scott covered the metaphor of the Vine & the Branches in John 15:1-8 which focused on abiding in Jesus (the vine) so that His followers (the branches) might bear fruit. Pastor Scott then listed five benefits of bearing fruit in verses 7-11 (answered prayer, God is glorified, proof of discipleship, love and joy).

Today's verses might seem a bit disconnected from the image of the vine and the branches and bearing fruit but a closer look will show that Jesus still has in mind the idea of bearing fruit (v. 16).

The main point of the verses before us today is that Jesus' followers are to love one another (vv.12, 17). We are not left to guess what this love looks like. The model for the love Jesus is calling His followers to show toward one another has its foundation and source in the love that exists between the Father and the Son and is modelled by Jesus.

The Foundation and Source of Love: God

⁹Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you;

Command: Abide in My Love.

abide in My love.

How are we to abide in Jesus' Love? Obedience.

¹⁰If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love;

just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

What is the effect of abiding in Jesus' love by keeping His commandments? Joy

¹¹These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full.

John 3:29; 17:13

1 John 1:4

The Commandment (vv. 12, 17)

¹²"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. ¹⁷"This I command you, that you love one another.

John 13:34-35

1 John 3:10-12

1 John 4:7-13, 19-21

What does this love look like? It's Sacrificial and Particular.

Sacrificial & Substitutionary

¹³"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

John 13:1 (5-15)

Romans 5:8; 8:32, 35, 39

Galatians 2:20

Particular Love: For His Friends

¹⁴“You are My friends if you do what I command you.

Abraham was called a friend of God. James 2:21-23 (2 Chron. 20:7; Isa. 40:8)

Moses – Exodus 33:11

¹⁵“No longer do I call you slaves,

for the slave does not know what his master is doing;

John 13:16-17; 15:20

but I have called you friends,

for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.

A Friendship based on Jesus’ Gracious Choice.

¹⁶“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you

Chosen & Appointed

A Purposeful Friendship

that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain [abide],
so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

John 14:13-14

John 15:7-8

¹⁷“This I command you, that you love one another.

Verse 17 serves as an inclusio, which holds verses 12-17 together and emphasizes the need for the followers of Christ to love one another. It also serves as a transition to the verses that follow by way of contrast to the response of the world (vv. 18-27)

Application:

We must take seriously the command to love one another as Christ has loved us. This is not optional and it is not a suggestion.

Let's work on how to demonstrate our love to one another in biblical and practical ways.

Be encouraged that by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, He calls you His friend.

Let's make fruit-bearing a priority in our lives. Let's pray that God will make us fruitful for His glory.