

The Persistent Love of Christ for an Inconsistent Disciple

John 21:15–25

John 21:15–25 (NKJV)

¹⁵ So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “**Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?**”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “**Feed My lambs.**”

¹⁶ He said to him again a second time, “**Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?**”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “**Tend My sheep.**”

¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “**Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?**” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “**Do you love Me?**”

And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.”

Jesus said to him, “**Feed My sheep.** ¹⁸ Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry *you* where you

do not wish.” ¹⁹ This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, **“Follow Me.”**

²⁰ Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?” ²¹ Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, “But Lord, what *about* this man?”

²² Jesus said to him, **“If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you? You follow Me.”**

²³ Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, **“If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you?”**

²⁴ This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true.

²⁵ And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

Introduction

There is nothing greater in this world than to be a follower of Jesus Christ. To be an ambassador to represent the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

It is truly humbling that we have been granted faith to believe in the Son of God and have been delivered from the wrath to come.

But also, nothing in this world can be so difficult and life threatening than to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

From a doctrinal standpoint, it can be dangerous and isolating

If you preach and teach that Jesus is God as John's Gospel clearly does, and preach that Jesus is the only way to heaven in this inclusive, ecumenical world, you can be persecuted.

From a practical standpoint, following Christ is contrary to the philosophy of the world that teaches us that we are to get all we can out of this place and serve self first at the expense of others. But that is foreign to the N.T. Gospel.

John MacArthur wrote,
The true gospel call to follow Jesus Christ is a call to self-denial. It is not a man-centered call to self-fulfillment; there is no "Christianity lite." The gospel

calls sinners to submit fully to Jesus Christ, to find their lives by losing them, to gain their lives by abandoning them, to live life to the fullest by emptying themselves. Our Lord's message, frankly, was not user friendly; it was not so much comforting as threatening. He did not make salvation easy, but hard; Christ's preaching, while motivated by love and compassion, filled with grace and mercy, and offering forgiveness, peace, and joy now and forever, was still demanding in the extreme. Jesus was never guilty of making things easy for sinners, and thereby contributing to a false confidence, a false assurance of salvation. "No one," He declared, "after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). He warned that those who would follow Him must be willing to die to themselves, and He stressed the importance of counting the cost of commitment to Him:

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2008). [John 12-21](#) (p. 398). Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.

Following Christ is not about attending a church, or being a good person, or reading a bible. It includes those things

But being a follower of Jesus Christ, is represented by an intense love of Christ that motivates and moves one to serve in complete devotion to Him, even at the expense of life itself...

Review:

After the initial appearance of Jesus to the women and his disciples and then Thomas, the next scene John records for us is His appearance by the sea of Galilee with the disciples having gone back to fishing.

They were commanded to wait for him at the mountain near the sea of Galilee, Matthew 28:16

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them.

but instead of waiting, decided to return to their fishing career.

This was not a fishing trip, but a refusal to obey and trust the Lord.

Peter is still gripped with guilt for his massive failure in denying Jesus 3 times.

It was bad enough that he denied him, but when you add to this the times that Peter said he would never deny Him but would rather die for

John 13:36–38 (NKJV)

³⁶ Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, where are You going?”

Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward.”

³⁷ Peter said to Him, “Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake.”

³⁸ Jesus answered him, “**Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times.**”

Matthew 26:33 (NKJV)

³³ Peter answered and said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.”

Mark 14:31 (NKJV)

³¹ But he spoke more vehemently, “If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!”

And they all said likewise.

Luke 22:60–62 (NKJV)

⁶⁰ But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are saying!”

Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, “**Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.**” ⁶² So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

This is the same Peter who had some amazing high moments with Christ and some devastating and terrible lows

Highs

Matthew 16:15–17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ He said to them, “**But who do you say that I am?**”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, “**Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.**

Immediately following being given direct revelation from God.

Lows

Matthew 16:21–23 (NKJV)

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

²² Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!”

²³ But He turned and said to Peter, “**Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.**”

High on the Mountain

Matthew 17:1–4 (NKJV)

17 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; ² and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. ³ And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. ⁴ Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

Low

Matthew 17:14–17 (NKJV)

¹⁴ And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, ¹⁵ “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire

and often into the water. ¹⁶ So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him.”

¹⁷ Then Jesus answered and said, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.”

Matthew 17:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?”

²⁰ So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief;...

Peter and the disciples were familiar with great moments of amazement and faith, then plunging into disbelief, faithlessness, and doubt.

Peter particularly, being the leader of the 12 disciples, is especially noteworthy.

He is filled with faith and boldness one moment and then following immediately after full of cowardness, doubt and fear.

Peter ended up after his denial of Christ, a total train wreck convinced in his mind that he would not be able to be used by the Lord in ministry and service of the Messiah.

He had been so confident in his faith yet failed when times got hard.

He was the leader, and as the leader, he knew he bore tremendous responsibility, yet failed at every turn. He was devastated, defeated, discouraged, despondent, fearful, anxious, faithless, and felt totally useless.

Now before we are to hard on Peter,
How are you doing? How are you handling the current crisis we are in?

Before 2020, most of us had a dependable job, your future plans were pretty stable. Your health was ok, no immanent treats, at least no more that the common cold and common flu.

We believed God, went to church, enjoyed time with family and friends.

Then by March of 2020, the world seemed to turn completely upside down.

A godless Regime had taken control of America, we were told that men are not men and women are not women, and that family is what every you make it to be. Gender specific personal pronouns could not even be defined anymore or used, and a virus had been unleashed on the world that was said would kill millions...

Fear gripped the world and medical community.
Hospitals prepared for the worse.

We were told that isolation is best. 6 feet apart when around anyone, mask up even in your homes.

Churches shut down, family gatherings were canceled. Sporting events stopped. More and more transitioned to working at home. For those who watched the Main Stream Media, Case numbers and deaths were given every day in every news cast and seemed to be piling up. Horror stories came out of New York and Italy.

And now here we are 18 months later, Covid is still here, variants and their lethality are the top news items in Main Stream media. Experimental Vaccines have been produced in record time, and now Joe Biden says if you don't take the vaccine you can lose your job.

Hospitals are losing nurses and doctors, due to their refusal to take the shot. Men and women are having to plan what the New Year will look like unemployed.

In some states and countries you cannot shop for groceries without a vaccine card.

Now more and more information is coming out that the vaccines don't work and at best fade in their efficacy after a few months.

The the FDA that approved the Pfizer vaccine now votes 16- 2 not in favor of booster shots.

While Israel is one of the most vaccinated countries in the world and continues to plow forward with the promotion of booster shots, yet at the same time, the vast majority of the people in the Hospitals of Israel are fully vaccinated.

But if anyone, including a pastor says anything about this or tries to bring anymore information to the table, he is canceled or said to be unloving and in-compassionate and divisive.

Lies are promoted, and Truth is disregarded and shunned. Discernment is at an all time low, and propaganda is at an all time High.

This is one the most if not the most dangerous times Americans have ever lived thru and its not just because of a virus that threatens your life... There are larger issues that threaten the very existence of America and your way of life and the future of your family.

There is no doubt, that this is a real virus, and it true that men and women and children have died from this virus. But it is equally true that a lot of lies are being promoted and serious life threatening errors are being made, both unintentionally and in ignorance, and also intentionally.

Add to all this, that now on the 20th year anniversary of 911, the very group of Terrorist that sponsored attacks on the United States has now

been given full control of the entire country of Afghanistan fully armed with some of the best military equipment America has ever produced.

Most that I talk to say that they have never seen a time like this. And some of our Seniors make are clear when they say this is not the America I grew up in.

America is fighting for her very life, and Churches and Christians are being tested to levels they have not witnessed before.

As John MacArthur said, “There is a sifting happening in the church right now”

So before we are too hard on Peter and wonder how He could be so faithless and discouraged and doubtful

Ask yourself, how you are doing with verses like.

Philippians 4:4;6 (NKJV)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always....

⁶ Be anxious for nothing,

Matthew 6:25

²⁵, do not worry about your life,

1 Thessalonians 5:18–21 (NKJV)

¹⁸ in everything give thanks;.

²¹ Test all things; hold fast what is good.

Philippians 2:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing,

Proverbs 3:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;

⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.

The Beauty of this passage, it how persistent the love of Christ is for His own.

Peter was a mess and had failed many times and led others in that failure, Yet Christ never stopped pursuing him. Never gave up on him. Never let him go.

Romans 8:35 (NKJV)

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Romans 8:37–39 (NKJV)

³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 13:1 (NKJV)

13....having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

John 15:13–14 (NKJV)

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends....

But also we see in this passage the undeniable obligation of the one who is loved by this merciful and gracious love of God, that we are to return that love to Him.

The primary mark of the redeemed has always been love for God. The Shema, the great Old Testament confession of faith, declares, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with

all your soul and with all your might” (Deut. 6:5). Later in Deuteronomy Moses exhorted Israel to manifest that love by obeying God’s commandments (10:12–13; 11:1). When Daniel poured out his heart in prayer for his people, he addressed God as “the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments” (Dan. 9:4).

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2008). [John 12–21](#) (pp. 399–400). Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.

1 John 4:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us.

1 John 4:7–12 (NKJV)

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.¹² No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

1 John 4:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

This passage leaves us with the final picture of Peter, not defeated, but Restored, forgiven and encouraged.

Thru the persistent love of Christ and the Power of the Holy Spirit, Peter would prove to be one of the most effective and powerful apostles and leaders in the early N.T. Church.

So as we consider the text. Notice the Love of Christ for Peter, Notice the Restoration of Peter. Notice the Promise to Peter.

I. The Restoration of Peter

II. The Rebuke of Peter

I. The Restoration of Peter

¹⁵ So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon

Peter, “**Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?**”

Peter denial was public and open so now his restoration would be public and open for all to see. Not only the other 6 disciples present on the shore of the sea of Galilee, but also for all the world to read for all of church history.

v. 15 Jesus said to Simon Peter, “**Simon, son of Jonah,**

That He addressed him as “**Simon, son of John**” suggests that what followed was a rebuke. Jesus had given Simon the nickname “Peter” (John 1:42), but sometimes referred to him as “Simon” when Peter did something that needed rebuke or correction (e.g., Matt. 17:25; Mark 14:37; Luke 22:31). It was as if our Lord called him by his former name when he was acting like his former self.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2008). [John 12–21](#) (p. 401). Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.

v15 Jesus said to Simon Peter, “**Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?**”

love**agapaó: to love****Original Word:** ἀγαπάω**Part of Speech:** Verb**Transliteration:** agapaó**Phonetic Spelling:** (ag-ap-ah'-o)**Definition:** to love**Usage:** I love, wish well to, take pleasure in, long for; denotes the love of reason, esteem.

the highest love of the will, love that implies total commitment (cf. 1 Cor. 13:4–8

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2008). [John 12–21](#) (p. 401). Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.

do you love Me more than these?"

these?"

ΤΟΥΤΩΝ

(i.e., the boat, nets, and other fishing paraphernalia)

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2008). [John 12–21](#) (p. 401). Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.

Jesus goes right to the point in his public rebuked restoration of Peter by addressing the direction of his love. What is number one his life. What is it moves him, the has his heart.

Its is the fishing business, or the call of God on his life for ministry?

This is what defines a true believer. What he loves is what he serves, what he loves is what he follows, what he loves is what he has affection for, what he loves is what he will spend the most of his time with.
Luke 16:13 (NKJV)

¹³ “No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

Luke 11:23 (NKJV)

²³ He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters.

Joshua 24:14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ “Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! ¹⁵ And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Matthew 4:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘*You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.*’ ”

Some might argue that this was just for Peter. Peter was being called into full-time ministry and needed to be willing to give it all up to follow Christ.

Although it is true that there are those that God calls like this.... To abandon literally all things and leave and go and serve.

To give up the career, the money, the pleasures of life to do so.

But

To be a follower of Christ also requires full devotion. Complete abandonment. Sold out for the Lord.

Luke 14:26–27 (NKJV)

²⁶ “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

Many who are false converts betray their hearts by their affections

Matthew 13:22 (NKJV)

²² Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

1 John 2:15–17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

What or who you love most becomes your master

Jesus, begins to probe into Peter's heart to help see what is driving Peter. Does he love Christ more than these things, or does he love these things more than Christ.

Jesus challenged Peter to permanently abandon his former life and be exclusively devoted to following Him, based on his love.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2008). [John 12–21](#) (p. 401). Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.

“Yes,

A primary particle of strong affirmation; yes -- even so, surely, truth, verily, yea, yes.

Peter, painfully aware of his disobedience and failure, felt too guilty to claim that type of love. The brash pronouncements were a thing of the past; broken and humbled and fully aware that his action precluded him from a believable claim to the highest love, Peter answered by using the word *phileō*, a less lofty term that signifies affection. He also appealed to Jesus’ omniscience, reminding Him, “**You know that I love You.**”

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2008). [John 12-21](#) (p. 401). Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.

v. 15 He said to him, “**Feed My lambs.**”

boskó: to feed

Original Word: βόσκω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: boskó

Phonetic Spelling: (bos'-ko)

Definition: to feed

Usage: I feed, pasture.

1006 bóskō – properly, feed (graze); (figuratively) spiritually nourish by feeding people the Word of God (Jn 21:15,17). While 4166 (poimén) focuses on "shepherding" the flock of God (caring for them), 1006 (bóskō) stresses feeding them His Word.

arnion: a lamb

Original Word: ἀρνίον, ου, τό

Part of Speech: Noun, Neuter

Transliteration: arnion

Phonetic Spelling: (ar-nee'-on)

Definition: lamb

Usage: (originally: a little lamb, but diminutive force was lost), a lamb.

721 arnión (the diminutive of 704 /arén, "a sheep") – properly, a young lamb, "a little lamb" (J. Thayer); (figuratively) a person with pure (innocent), virgin-like (gentle) intentions.

Of all the things the Lord could have told Peter to do... He told him to feed the lambs...

Feeding lambs require teaching the Word of God to them.

Acts 6:4 (NKJV)

⁴ but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

Acts 2:42 (NKJV)

⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

note that these Christ lambs.
Feed My lambs.”

This is his church. His people, His lambs. Not the elders and pastors lambs . But Christ lambs.

Acts 20:28 (NKJV)

28 Elders are to....., to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

16 He said to him again a second time, “Simon, *son of Jonah*, do you love ἀγαπάω Me?”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love φιλέω You.”
 He said to him, “**Tend My sheep.**”

“**Tend**

poimainó: to act as a shepherd

Original Word: ποιμαίνω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: poimainó

Phonetic Spelling: (poy-mah'-ee-no)

Definition: to act as a shepherd

Usage: I shepherd, tend, herd; hence: I rule, govern.

Cognate: 4165 poimaínō – properly, to shepherd, caring for (protecting) the flock.

4165 /poimaínō ("shepherding, pastoring") is distinct from "feeding" (**1006** /bóskō). **4165** (poimaínō) focuses on "tending" ("shepherding") (WS, 274), which includes guarding, guiding, and folding the flock and is only provided (ultimately) by Jesus Christ – the Shepherd, who calls under-shepherds (such as elder-overseers) to guard and guide His people by His direction (1 Pet 5:1-5). [See 4166](#) (poimēn).

My sheep.

probaton: a sheep**Original Word:** πρόβατον, ου, τό**Part of Speech:** Noun, Neuter**Transliteration:** probaton**Phonetic Spelling:** (prob'-at-on)**Definition:** a little sheep**Usage:** a sheep.

4263 próbaton – sheep; (figuratively) someone easily led, one way or the other (like a sheep).

[4263 (próbaton) properly refers to any animal that grazes (goes out to pasture), but especially to sheep.]

Peter is commanded second time to take care of the sheep, where lambs or sheep. YOU take care for them.

1 Peter 5:2–3 (NKJV)

² Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;

Acts 20:28–31 (NKJV)

²⁸ Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He

purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. ³¹ Therefore watch,.....

17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love φιλεῖς Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love φιλεῖς Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love φιλω You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed Βόσκει My sheep.

And he said to Him, “Lord, You know οἶδας all things; You know γινώσκεις that I love φιλω You.”

eídō (oída) – properly, to see with physical eyes (cf. Ro 1:11), as it naturally bridges to the metaphorical sense: perceiving ("mentally seeing").

This is akin to the expressions: "I see what You mean"; "I see what you are saying."

ginōskō – properly, to know, especially through personal experience (first-hand acquaintance). 1097 /ginōskō ("experientially know")

v.17 Peter was **grieved** because He said to him the third time,

lupeó: to distress, to grieve

Original Word: λυπέω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: lupeó

Phonetic Spelling: (loo-peh'-o)

Definition: to distress, to grieve

Usage: I pain, grieve, vex.

Cognate: 3076 lypéō (from 3077 /lýpē, "deep grief") – to experience deep, emotional pain (sadness), i.e. severe sorrow (grief). 3076 (lypéō) is very intense and hence even used of the pain of childbirth (see Gen 3:16, LXX). See 3077 (lypē).

Peter's intense grief is brought about by the third question, but just because it was the third time which

would have reminded him of the 3 times he denied Christ.

But also Jesus even questions his choice of love. He question his brotherly, friendship love. Does he even love that much.

Peter appeals to the omniscience of Christ, but now goes one step further and appeals to the experiential knowledge of Christ.

Lord, he says, I have been with you three years, and yes, I have blown it several times. But Im still here. I want to be with you. I don't want to leave you. Cant you see this? You know it is true.

v.17 Jesus said to him, “Feed
Bόσκε My sheep.

Now one last final time, Jesus command him to Feed his sheep.

He said,

1. Feed my lambs
2. Shepherd my sheep.
3. Feed my Sheep.

Directly linked to the command to feed the Sheep is the love of the pastor for the Lord.

What keeps you in ministry and in service of Christ is the Love you have for Christ.

Little love, little service

Lots of love, more service.

What is most important in a servants life as a Christian is love for Christ.

The ones that love Christ are never the ones you have a hard time getting to serve in ministry. It is always the ones that say they love Christ but really love there own life more.

One last point

It is clear from the emphasis of the commands of Christ to Peter, that his and every pastors primary responsibility is to

1. Feed the Sheep and lambs the Word of God
2. Tend to and care for the needs of the Sheep
3. Protect the sheep from danger
4. And always always remember they are the ` Sheep and lambs of Christ!!!

If it had stopped there, with Peter being confronted 3 times, and the love and loyalty of Peter being questioned, driving him into intense grief...it would have left Peter a shattered man. Useless, and discouraged.

But that is not what the Lord does,
 He assures Peter that he will be what God has
 called him to be,
 And instead of a cowering, discouraged, faithless
 follower, he would become a bold, courageous,
 faithful follower even to the point of death.

18 Most assuredly, (amen, amen) I say to
 you, when you were younger, you girded yourself
 and walked where you wished; but when you are
 old, you will stretch out your hands, and
 another will gird you and carry *you* where
 you do not wish.”

the way *stretch out your hands* was understood in
 the ancient world: it widely referred to crucifixion
 (Haenchen, 2. 226–227)

Carson, D. A. (1991). *The Gospel according to John* (p. 679). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

19 This He spoke, signifying by what death
 he would glorify God. And when He had
 spoken this, He said to him, “**Follow
 Me.**”

Jesus commands Peter to follow Christ.

Jesus' prophecy of Peter's martyrdom underscores the truth that commitment to Him may require paying the ultimate price. "He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me," Jesus had told the disciples when He commissioned them. Then He warned, "He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it" (Matt. 10:38–39; cf. 16:24–26; Rom. 14:8; Phil. 1:21).

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2008). [John 12–21](#) (p. 403). Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.

Peter spent the last three decades of his life serving the Lord and anticipating his martyrdom. Yet he faced that prospect with confidence, comforted by the knowledge that he would not deny the Lord again, but instead would glorify Him in his death (cf. 1 Peter 4:14–16). According to tradition, Peter was crucified, but requested to be crucified upside down, because he felt unworthy to be crucified like his Lord (Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History* III.1)

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2008). [John 12–21](#) (p. 404). Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.

1 Peter 4:12–19 (NKJV)

¹² Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His

glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. ¹⁶ Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

¹⁷ For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ Now

*“If the righteous one is scarcely saved,
Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?”*

¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

By the time the Fourth Gospel was written, the prediction had been fulfilled, and Peter had glorified God by his martyrdom, probably in Rome, under the emperor Nero. Extra-biblical sources for the event are not strong. Clement of Rome (c. ad 96) mentions Peter's martyrdom but does not reveal what form it

took (*1 Clement* 5:4). Writing about ad 212, Tertullian affirms that it was when Peter was bound to the cross that he was girded by someone else (*Scorpiace* [‘Antidote for the Scorpion’s Sting’] 15), but it is unclear whether Tertullian has access to independent information, or is simply referring to this text. Later accounts of Peter asking to be crucified upside down, because he felt unworthy to be crucified as his Lord was, are too remote and too infected with legendary accretions to be reliable.

Carson, D. A. (1991). *The Gospel according to John* (p. 680). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

Peter is Restored. He encouraged, even with the reality that He will die a martyr

Yet Peter is still Peter.....so he needs another rebuke.

II. The Rebuke of Peter

20 Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?” ²¹ Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, “But Lord, what *about* this man?”

22 Jesus said to him, “If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you? You follow Me.”

You must follow me (the pronoun *You* [sing.] is emphatic)

Carson, D. A. (1991). [*The Gospel according to John*](#) (p. 681). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

There is no belittling of either disciple. One of them may be called to strategic pastoral ministry (vv. 15–17) and a martyr’s crown (vv. 18–19), and the other to a long life (v. 22) and to strategic historical-theological witness, in written form (v. 24

Carson, D. A. (1991). [*The Gospel according to John*](#) (p. 681). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

23 Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, “If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you?”

Conclusion

24 This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true.

²⁵ And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

The Gospel closes with the personal seal and attestation of its writer. John, without mentioning his name, vouches for the veracity of what he had recorded, and then adds an hyperbole (cf. Matthew 11:23; Hebrews 11:12; for others) to emphasize the fact that it was not possible for him to fully tell out the infinite glories of that One who is the central figure of his Gospel. The final “Amen”—found at the end of each Gospel—is the Holy Spirit’s imprimatur.

“The Apostle closes his Gospel with another reminder of the inadequacy of all human words to tell out His glory, of whom he has been speaking. If it were attempted to tell out all, the world would be unable to contain the books that would be written. It would be an impracticable load to lift, rather than a help to clearer apprehension. How thankful we may be for the moderation that has compressed what would be really blessing to us into such a moderate compass! which yet, as we all must know, develops into whatever largeness we may have capacity for. Our Bibles are thus the same, and quite

manageable by any. On the other hand, are we burning to know more? We may go on without any limit, except that which our little faith or heart may impose. May God awaken our hearts to test for themselves the expansive power of Scripture, and whether we can find a limit anywhere! Like the inconceivable immensity of the heavens, ever increasing as the power of vision is lengthened, we go on to find that the further we go only the more does the thought of infinity rise upon us; but this infinity is filled with an Infinite Presence; in every leaf-blade, in every atom, yet transcending all His works; and ‘to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ by whom are all things, and we by Him’ ” (Numerical Bible).

Pink, A. W. (1923–1945). [*Exposition of the Gospel of John*](#) (pp. 1146–1147). Swengel, PA: Bible Truth Depot.

John 20:30–31 (NKJV)

³⁰ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

