

STUDY #41

Jesus the Loving Lord

John 15:9-17

John's Purpose Statement:

"³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:30-31

→ Review

John 15:1-8 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

→ Read vs. 9-11

⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 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. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

1. Based on the context, who is speaking? And to whom is He speaking?
2. What command does Jesus give in vs 9?
3. How can Jesus' disciples abide in His love? (vs 10) See also the following four passages:

John 14:15, 21, 23 "¹⁵If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. ²³...If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

1 John 2:3-6 “³ And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.⁴ Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”

1 John 3:24 “²⁴ Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.”

1 John 4:13-16 “¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”

4. What two statements reflect Jesus’ relationship with the Father, and in turn His relationship with His disciples? (vs 9-10)

a. _____

b. _____

5. Why is Jesus telling these things to His disciples?

→ Read vs. 12-13

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.

1. What commandment does Jesus give?

2. How are the following four passages similar?

John 13:34 “³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”

1 John 2:7-10 “⁷ Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. ⁸ At the same

time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. ⁹Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. ¹⁰Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.”

1 John 3:11, 23 “¹¹For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.”

1 John 4:21 “²¹And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.”

3. What does Jesus say is the greatest example of love?

4. Verse 13 is speaking of Christ’s example of love. How do the following verses further explain His love?

Romans 5:6-8 “⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Ephesians 5:2 “And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

1 John 3:16 “¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.”

1 John 4:7-11 “⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

→ Read vs. 14-17

¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No 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. ¹⁶You 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. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

1. What does Jesus call those who follow His commands?
2. How do “friends” differ from “servants”?
3. What blessing do Jesus’ “friends” receive? (vs 15)
4. For what 3 purposes does Jesus say he chose and appointed His disciples: (vs 16a)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
5. Why does Jesus specifically use the phrase “bearing fruit” in vs 16?
6. What common theme does verse 16 share with John 15:7 and John 14:13-14?

John 15:7 “⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

John 14:13-14 “Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

TEACHING NOTES

1. The Command to Abide in His Love (15:9-11)

2. The Example of His Love (15:12-13)

3. The Outflow of His Love (15:14-17)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. From this passage what have you learned about God's love for believers in Jesus Christ and the privileges of remaining in His love?
2. How are you practically living out obedience to Christ's commands? If you are not walking in obedience, then what does this reflect about your relationship with Christ and abiding in Him?
3. Why is loving others, especially other believers, so important? How can you love and show Christ's love to others even when you don't "feel like it"? What does real love look like?