

John 15:12-13

“The Commandment to Love”

Review

I. Abiding – v.1-11

- A. V.4-7 – in Himself
- B. V.7 – in His word(s)
- C. V.9-10 – in His love

II. The evidence & purpose of abiding

- A. V.4-6 – Abiding in Jesus...enables/empowers us to produce fruit.
- B. V.7 – Abiding in God’s word(s)...aligns us with God’s will; i.e. answered prayer – 1 John 3:22; 5:14; James 1:22, 25
- C. V.9-11 – Abiding in God’s love...produces obedience *to* God (14:15), drawing approval *from* God, resulting in joy *in* God.

III. Matt. 22:34-40 – the great commands

- A. Jesus connected loving God in the same context of loving others!
- B. The entire law & prophetic teachings hinge on these two – Rom. 13:8-10; Gal. 5:14; 1 Cor. 13:1-3.

Body

I. V.12-17 – The command to love

- A. V.12 – “*This is **My commandment** that you love one another as I have loved you.*”
 - 1) A commandment, not a consideration.
 - 2) *This is **My commandment**, not man’s – Matt. 5:21-48: “You have heard that it was said...**But I say to you**...”*

a) God's standards always have been & always will be higher than man's – 1 Pet. 1:16.

b) God's standards always have been & always will be contrary to human nature – Rom. 8:7; 1 Cor. 2:14; Gal. 5:17.

i) This is one of the major obstacles in accurately interpreting God's word: man always wants to *interpret* things through his own human, sinful nature...

ii) *...which leads to us loving according to our human, sinful nature...which looks nothing like Jesus!!!*

iii) ***Abiding in God's love produces obedience, **esp. to His commandments** – John 14:15; 1 John 5:3.

3) What was/is God's commandment? "... *that you love one another as I have loved you.*" ***How has Jesus loved us??? V.13...***

B. V.13 – Genuinely & Sacrificially = true def. of love.

1) Rom. 12:9; 1 Tim. 1:5; 1 Pet. 1:22; 4:8

2) John 10:11; Rom. 5:6-8; 1 John 3:16 – "*By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*"

3) ****Consider the immediate context of who "one another" was: the disciples!*

4) ****Application: we are to love those who don't deserve to be loved.*

5) Too often human love is contingent on our own circumstances, emotions or definitions, or, on others actions, rather than the standard of Christ – Prov. 10:12; 17:17; Matt. 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-36; Rom. 12:9-10, 18; 13:8-10; 1 Cor. 16:14; Gal. 5:14; Eph. 4:1-3; Phil. 4:5; 1 Cor. 13; Heb. 12:14; 1 Pet. 1:22-23; 4:8.

- 6) Loving others is contrary to who/what we are; esp. towards those who are unloving; esp. like Jesus has loved us – Jer. 31:3; John 3:16; 13:1, 34-35; Rom. 5:8; Eph. 4:32; Phil. 2:5-8; 1 John 3:16-18, 23; 4:7-11, 16, 19-21.

II. **How do we learn to love like Jesus?**

A. **Start with the heart...our own!**

- 1) *We can't love like Jesus without our heart changing* – Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:26-27 = God, change my heart!

B. **Start with those closest to us and work outwardly.**

- 1) *We can't love like Jesus without loving one another. If we can't love those, how will we ever love those we don't know who are completely contrary to us as Christians?* – **1 John 4:20-21; 2:4**

C. **Start loving the One who loved us first – 1 John 4:19**

- 1) *We'll never be able to love like Jesus, until we understand how Jesus has loved us* – John 3:16; Rom. 5:6-8