

Series "Jesus: God And Savior"
"Love One Another"
John 15:12-17
Part-53

Our Passage (Paragraph) starts and ends with the same commandment, "to love one another." John 15:12 – "My commandment, that you love one another,"

John 15:17 – "This I command you, that you love one another."

Love is the distinct Mark and Characteristic of the Christian.

John 15:1-11 – Believer With Jesus Christ; Key Word "Abide."

John 15:12-17 – Believer With Believer; Key Word "Love."

John 15:18-27 – Believer With The World; Key Word "Hate."

John 13-17 – Private Instruction

The Thought Of Our Passage: Friends Of Jesus Love Others And Know And Obey The Truth Because They Are Truly In Christ.

1. Verses 12-13 – Jesus' Friends Love Each Other

2. Verse 14 – Jesus' Friends Obey Jesus

3. Verse 15 – Jesus' Friends Know Divine Truth

4. Verses 16-17 – Jesus' Friends Are Chosen

1. Verses 12-13 – Jesus' Friends Love Each Other:

John 15:12

"This is My commandment," – Context: John 15:10.

"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love;" – Obeying the commandments of Jesus is the means of abiding in His love! John 15:1-11

John 15:5 – "he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit,"

Note that Jesus had said "Commandments" but in our passage He said "Commandment." The reason is that all the commandments are fulfilled in this "One Commandment, To Love," Matthew 22:36-40.

The Will To Love: "This is My commandment, that you love one another"

Jesus had already said this to His disciples, John 13:34-35.

Love – Is the word agape – “divine love, spiritual, plane – seeking the highest good of the object that is love. Experienced only by believers. Not based on performance, or true worth, but a love that is a deliberate choice. Not an emotion – it is motion – It is an on-going commitment, not dependent upon treatment received or reaction of others.”

God’s love, is a decision to act for the benefit of someone else, no matter how you feel about him or her.

Romans 12:10; Romans 13:8-10

1 Corinthians 13 – The Love Chapter: Not one word describes “Emotion” but everything about “Motion.”

“that you love one another,” – literally, “keep on loving.”

Luke 22:24

“that you love one another,” – All, not some, 1 Thessalonians 4:9.

The Standard By Which All Love Can Be Measured And Understood: “just as I have loved you.”

Ephesians 4:31-32; Ephesians 5:25

1 John 3:10; 1 John 3:14-15; 1 John 4:7-8; 1 John 4:20-21; 1 John 5:1

Romans 5:5

As we will to love and commit to actions, God’s love will shine through!

John 15:13

A Sacrificial Love: “that one lay down his life for his friends.”

1 John 3:16

“friends” – “a friend at court, friends of the Emperor,” inner circle around the king’s court; Had the privilege of access at any time. The “Friend was the first to see the king each morning in his bed chamber.”

Romans 5:6-8

“lay down his life for his friends.” – There are levels of “laying down your life.” It means “to give of yourself, to take part of your life and to give it on behalf of someone else,” 1 Peter 3:18.

1 John 3:17-18

2. Verse 14 – Jesus’ Friends Obey Jesus:

John 15:14

“friends” – Being a friend entails mutual obligations. A one-sided “Friendship” is no friendship at all.

Friendship as well as discipleship is based on obedience (God’s Directives) – “if you do what I command you.”

The essence of sin is rebellion against God’s law, 1 John 3:4.

Acts 6:7

John 3:36

Obedience is not the means of salvation but it is the expected result of salvation.

3. Verse 15 – Jesus’ Friends Know Divine Truth:

John 15:15

“for the slave does not know what his master is doing;” – The relationship between slave and a master is not one of intimacy. They do not share their hearts.

Love’s Confidentiality: “but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.” – I have told you intimate things. Jesus had given them privileged information.

Abraham – Had the privilege of being called the friend of God, 2 Chronicles 20:7 – “Abraham Your friend forever?” Isaiah 41:8 – Descendant of “Abraham My friend,” James 2:23.

Genesis 18:17 – God reveals the future plans to Abraham.

Moses – Exodus 33:11 – God reveals the future plans.

Psalms 25:14; Proverbs 3:32; Psalm 103:7

"but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you." – Luke 10:23-24; John 17:6-8; Romans 16:25-26.

Matthew 26:38

4. Verses 16-17 – Jesus' Friends Are Chosen:

John 15:16

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you," – This should Eliminate Pride, 1 John 4:10.

"and appointed you," – (Service) Jesus chose the disciples after a night of prayer. He appointed them and sent them. We are appointed, Matthew 28:19-20.

God's Choosing (God's Part), revealed here, does not in any way eliminate human responsibility to Believe. (Remember Judas)

God's Plan Is To Be Fruitful: "that you would go and bear fruit," – John 15:5 – "he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit,"

God's Plan Is Lasting Fruit: "and that your fruit would remain,"

"so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you." – John 15:7 – Fruit bearing comes through prayer!

John 15:17 – Jesus repeats it again lest we forget what we are to do, John 13:35.

Application:

1. God Can Command His Children To Love One Another Because Real Love Is A Decision To Commit To Actions. Then God's Love Will Shine Through: Romans 5:5 – "and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."
2. John 15:14 – "You are My friends if you do what I command you. Obedience Is Not The Means Of Salvation But It Is The Expected Result Of Salvation: