



Sunday, September 2, 2018

A QUIET COMMITMENT:

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD — “*Be still, and know that I am God*” (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message — “*to obey is better than sacrifice*” (1 Samuel 15:22)

John 15:4-5 Abide in **Me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in **Me**. ⁵ **I AM** the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in **Me**, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without **Me** ye can do nothing.

I. Jesus’ PARABLE of Abiding (John 15:1-8)

Jesus presents us with the parable of abiding in the first 8 verses. We noted the *providence* of the Father as He orchestrates the *painful purging process* in the life of the branch. This led us to the *principle of abiding* which promises a life of “*much fruit*” as a result.

II. Jesus’ PATHWAY of Abounding (John 15:9-17)



A. The LOVE of Christ (v. 9-11)

GOD'S **LOVE** toward us is NOT dependent upon
WHAT WE DO or *WHO WE ARE*.
It is simply dependent upon *WHO HE IS*.

1. The _____ of His Love (9a)
 - a. The _____ love for the Son

Q: How much did the Father love the Son? (John 3:35; 5:20; 17:24)

Matthew 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, "This is **My** beloved **Son**, in **Whom** I am well pleased."

- b. The Son's love for His _____

A PRECIOUS TRUTH
I AM LOVED by my **SAVIOR**
in the **SAME WAY** that
THE FATHER LOVES HIM.

Philippians 2:5-7 Let this mind be in you, which was also in **Christ Jesus**: ⁶ **Who**, being in the form of **God**, thought it not robbery to be equal with **God**: ⁷ But made **Himself** of no reputation, and took upon **Him** the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

- i. In His **BIRTH**—He _____

- ii. In His **LIFE**—He _____

- iii. In His **DEATH**—He _____

The greatest **EXAMPLE** of **LOVE** is
EVIDENCED in **SELF-SACRIFICE**.

Romans 5:8 But **God** commendeth [*demonstrated*] His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, **Christ** died for us.

iv. In His RESURRECTION—He _____ death

2. The _____ of His **LOVE** (9b-10)

a. He gives a PRECEPT—“ _____ this” (9b)

b. He gives a PREREQUISITE— _____ (10a)

c. He gives the PATTERN— _____ (10b)

3. The _____ of His **LOVE** (11)

a. What He _____ (11a)

James 1:2 My brethren, count [*consider*] it all joy when ye fall into divers [*various*] temptations [*trials*];

b. What He _____ (11b)

The fruit of abiding in Christ is abiding joy. As we learn to rest fully in all that Christ commands for us to do, a direct result is the fruit of joy in our lives.



The pathway of abounding in fruitfulness is **SACRIFICE**. It is the way of love—knowing that you are loved by God. This pathway of fruitfulness seen in our display of selfless love by abiding in Christ’s love as well as the abounding joy of Christ.

What is my next step? Please consider doing the questions on the back of this page.

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What Is My Next Step?

Hearing — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25

Doing — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

Date: _____ Text: _____ Speaker: _____

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (**Put OFF SIN**)
2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (**Renew your mind**)
 - a. What is He like?
 - b. What does He like?
 - c. What does He dislike?
3. What does God say to me in this text? (**Renew your mind**)
 - a. What command to obey?
 - b. What promise to claim?
 - c. What principle to apply (*If I do _____, then God will do _____*)?
 - d. What example to follow?
4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (**Renew your mind**)
5. In light of what **I** have heard from God, ... (**Put ON CHRIST**)
 - a. What character quality of Jesus must **I** demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
 - b. In what situations will **I** most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
 - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)



OUR MISSION: *Supremely love GOD,
Sacrificially love others
—ALL to the GLORY of GOD!*