“Abide in My Love”

(The Quality of Christ-like Love)
John 15:9-17
8-17-2025

Introduction:

*** Every Disciple of Christ, must have the same quality of Love that Christ demonstrated and abide in that Love!**

What are the qualities of Christ’s Love?

I. **Christ’s Love is <u>God’s</u> Love (v.9)**
(Love’s <u>Author</u> is <u>Divine</u>)

II. **Christ’s Love is an <u>Obedient</u> Love (v.10)**
(Love’s <u>Fruit</u> is <u>Obedience</u>)

III. **Christ’s Love is a <u>Joyful</u> Love (v.11)**
(Love’s <u>Result</u> is <u>Real Happiness</u>)

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(Love’s <u>usage</u> is a <u>Choice</u>)

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(Love’s <u>Horizontal Expression</u> is toward <u>One-another</u>)

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(Love’s <u>Highest Expression</u> is <u>Sacrifice</u>)

VII. **Christ’s Love is a <u>Personal</u> Love (v.14-15)**
(Love’s <u>Humble Expression</u> is <u>Friendly</u>)

Conclusion: (v.16-17)

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Introduction:

Whereas the theme of John 15:1-8 was "Abide in Me," the theme of John 15:9-17 is "Abide in My love."

"Continue ye in My love" (v. 9)
"Abide in My love" (v. 10)
"Love one another as I have loved you" (v. 12)
"Love one another" (v. 17)

In the previous context, we saw the importance of close fellowship with Christ so that our lives could be fruitful. Now we see that the fruit the Lord is most interested in is love. Love heads the list in Gal. 5:22.

*** Every Disciple of Christ, must have the same quality of Love that Christ demonstrated and abide in that Love!**

What are the qualities of Christ's Love?

I. Christ's Love is God's Love (v.9)
(Love's Author is Divine)

Jesus is describing the quality of love that is to remain in His disciples.

It is the same love that the Father has for His Son, and the same love that the Son has for His disciples.

"In My love" – (subjunctive possessive pronoun) – "in the love that I have for you."

"Our love for Christ is the result of Christ's love for us and is grounded at bottom in the Father's love for the world" (Jn. 3:16) (Robertson, p. 259).

"Continue ye in My love" – lit. abide in My love.

Possibilities:

--Stay in love with Me
(Continually remain in love with Me)
--Stay in the love I have for you
(Continually retain my love for you)
***--Stay in the love I gave to you
(Continually let my quality of love stay in you)

Jesus here is referring to the same concept that He brings out in John 17:26 -
And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

"Continue ye in My love" means two things:

1) I must first experience His love for me

2) Second, I must then in turn make that love my attitude toward Christ and others

I.e. – "Continue to realize that the love I demonstrated to you is the love that you are to appreciate and have in you toward Me and others."
"When Christ comes in to abide, He brings His love with Him, which in turn is the very love enjoyed by Christ from the Father" (Wycliffe Commentary, p. 1107).

1 John 4:19 *We love him, because he first loved us.*
My love for God is the result of my realization of His love for me.
The more aware you are of His love for you, the more you will love Him in return.

I John 4:7 says: "For love is of God" - (i.e. love comes from God) - Love is <u>not natural</u> -- You are <u>not</u> born with agape love. This love does <u>not</u> have its source in man or man-made religion. It comes to those who have experienced the new birth (it's actually a fruit of regeneration, an evidence of salvation).

II. Christ's Love is an <u>Obedient</u> Love (v.10)

(Love's <u>Fruit</u> is <u>Obedience</u>)

Obedience, the fruit of love, was a theme in John 14 (14:15; 14:21, 23).

Those who obey Christ demonstrate their love, and those who love Him obey Him (the two go hand in hand; they are mutually exclusive; you will not have one without the other).

It was Christ's love for the Father that motivated His obedience to the Father's will. Because His love for the Father was perfect, He said, "For I do always those things that please Him."

"My commandments" - "The Christian life is a life of principled, conscientious obedience to God's will as <u>revealed in the Bible</u>." (A.N. Martin).

Obedience is not real obedience if we do not obey our Lord . . .

*exactly
*completely
*without delay
*without excuse

- Husbands, you love Jesus when you obey His command to love your wives and lead your family.
- Wives, you love Jesus when you obey His command to submit to your husbands and serve your family's needs.
- Children, you love Jesus when you obey His command to obey and honor your parents.
- Singles, you love Jesus when you obey His command to "flee fornication" and "be content."
- Employees, you love Jesus when you obey His command to work, not as men pleasers but as diligent servants of Christ.
- Christian, you love Jesus when you obey His command to fulfill the Great Commission and make disciples of all nations.
- Christian, you love Jesus when you obey His command to not forsake the assembly of the saints (Heb. 10:25).

We often say that hate is the opposite of love. In actuality, sin is the antithesis to love. Hence, Jesus said regarding the last days: "Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" (Mt. 24:12).

Whenever we sin, we sin because at that moment, our love for God isn't what it should be. The degree to which you love God will determine the degree to which you keep from deliberately sinning against Him.

"Ye that love the Lord, hate evil."

Don't say you love God when you are downing a six-pack of Budweiser or reading pornography or pursuing a divorce of your spouse or committing fornication or adultery or snorting cocaine.

III. Christ's Love is a Joyful Love (v.11)

(Love's Result is Real Happiness)

"These things" –

--"Abide in Me" (v. 1-8)
--"Abide in My love" (v. 9)
--and "Obey My commands" (v. 10)

. . . The result will be joy!

"My joy" = the joy I give (Jesus gives joy that is unsurpassed).

Joy remains when loving obedience remains (John 13:17).

John 13:17
If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

This verse contains God's formula for happiness (blessedness) –

Knowing what's right
Plus doing what's right
Equals happiness

"Your joy might be full" – The Lord is not a "kill-joy," but rather a joy giver. And He can give joy to the limits of our capacity to receive it. He gives not a short supply but a "full tank" of joy!

Joy is spelled:

Jesus
Others
You (yourself last)

IV. Christ's Love is a Volitional Love (v.12a)

(Love's usage is a Choice)

"My commandment" - This is an appeal to the will.

A command that is to be either obeyed or disobeyed.

Love is a determined choice; it is not a mere fleeting positive emotional whim.

Christ didn't feel like drinking the bitter cup, yet He chose to do so out of love for the Father and love for sinners.

Love is a choice; a decision; an act of the will.

> This kind of love is possible even toward an enemy (Mt. 5:44), because it is not based upon a feeling that you conjure up about a person, but rather it is based upon a knowledge that a person (whoever it is) is made in the "image of God" and therefore is worthy of the respect, honor, dignity, and benevolence you show.

"Love" - not a mere emotional feeling, but does not exclude feeling either. It means to feel for someone (to empathize) and thereby be motivated to respond to meet their needs.

V. Christ's Love is a Reciprocal-Brotherly Love (v.12b)

(Love's Horizontal Expression is toward One-another)

Among Christians, love is to be a two-way street. It is to come to us and go from us; it is reciprocal (like that of a family).

Mike loves Steve and Steve loves Mike. Fran loves Colleen and Colleen loves Fran.

"As I have loved you" - How did Christ love us?

--He loved us unconditionally (when we didn't deserve it)

--He loved us beneficially (His love met our needs)

--He loved us sacrificially

--He loved us permanently (nothing will end it – Rom. 8)

"Love <u>one another</u>" - Love is to be <u>reciprocal</u> -- Not a two-way street in the body of Christ, but every believer should love every other believer.

Don't be a self-centered "Dead Sea" Christian: In the Dead Sea, the Jordan's waters flow in, but nothing flows out. Many people like the receiving end of love, but don't spend much time at the giving end, so their lives (like the Dead Sea) become bitter and lifeless.

"The disciples' responsibility was to love one another just as Christ had loved them. They would certainly need this love in the hours to follow, when their Master would be taken from them and their brave spokesman, Peter, would fail Him and them. In fact, all of them would fail, and the only thing that would bring them together would be their love for Christ and for each other." (Wiersbe, p. 349).

This love will be especially needed in the last days (when such love will begin to "wax cold") and the saints would feel a pressure to forsake the assembly (Heb. 10:25).

Love: a mark of a true born-again Christian:
1 John 3:14
We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

This Love toward one-another must be important if God repeats this command so many times:
John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.
John 15:17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.
Romans 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.
1 Thessalonians 4:9 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.
1 Peter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:
1 John 3:11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.
1 John 3:23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.
1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.
1 John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.
1 John 4:12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.
2 John 1:5 And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.

VI. Christ's Love is a <u>Sacrificial</u> Love (v.13)

(Love's <u>Highest Expression</u> is <u>Sacrifice</u>)

The **"man"** who laid down His life for His friends is none other than Christ.

Romans 5:7
For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

We are the **"friends"** (v. 14-15).

Love is giving (Jn. 3:16), and the ultimate manifestation of that giving love was Christ's gift of Himself as He died to take our place and suffer our punishment.

1 John 3:16
Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

"The motivation is love. The cross is not something imposed but something embraced" (Wycliffe, p. 1107).

"For His friends" – "Death for them in no wise contradicts the purpose to die for a larger circle, even the world itself" (Wycliffe, p. 1107).

Christ's death is sufficient for all but only efficient for His "friends." The atonement is unlimited in its provision, but it is limited in its application. Only the elect "friends" will benefit.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even <u>as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;</u>

VII. Christ's Love is a Personal Love (v.14-15)

(Love's Humble Expression is Friendly)

v. 14

We do not attain or maintain "friendship" status by obedience, but rather we manifest that we are friends by our obedience.

v. 15

Although Christ is the sovereign Lord of the universe (the great "I AM," the awesome King, the Ruler of creation, the Judge of the world), He does not relate to His children in those distant terms. He loves us enough to deal with us as "friends."

We have many acquaintances but very few real friends.

The qualities of a friend are many:

1) Close fellowship
2) Lasting faithfulness
3) Real fun
4) Special favor etc.

Here Jesus describes His friendship with us with this concept: **"All things I have heard of My Father, I have made known unto you."**

We are privy to private information; we are let in on details that others do not know. The secrets of God are revealed to us by our Friend, Jesus. The truth of God is ours because of our relationship to Christ.

Jesus is not saying that we are not "servants," but that we are servants "in the know." We are like the "inner circle" around a king; while we know His secrets, we are also subject to Him and have to obey His commands (Wiersbe, p. 357).

The perfect Biblical example was Abraham. He was both a "friend of God" (2 Chron. 20:7; Is. 41:8; Ja. 2:23) and also a servant of God (Gen. 26:24).

"Hast thou heard the secret of God?" (Job 15:8)

Psalm 25:14
The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

Conclusion: (v.16-17)

Who chose whom? Did the disciples chose Jesus or did He chose them? He in love selected them to follow Him. In the same way, He in love chose us!

Before we loved Him, He loved us; before we sought Him, He sought us; before we found Him, He found us.

Our coming to Christ was preceded by His coming to us; our reception of Him was preceded by His reception of us.

Our choice of Him was not what made Him choose us; rather, our choice of Him was a confirmation that He had already chosen us.

John 6:37
All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

John 6:44
No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:65
And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

v. 16
"Ordained" = appointed (selected and set apart for special service).

We are as "ambassadors."

His choice of us was for a <u>purpose</u>, an <u>earthly</u> (not just an eternal) purpose.

--**that** (purpose) **ye should <u>go</u>**

--that [ye should] **bring forth <u>fruit</u>**

--that…ye shall <u>ask</u>

We were not merely chosen to be "chosen", but we were chosen that we might <u>go</u> and "bring forth fruit."

This going and fruitbearing conveys the concept of soulwinning.

Psalm 126:6
He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

He came to us so that we might go to others, in order that Jesus might come to them as well!

"Bring forth fruit" – "Previously the fruit meant love. Now it was to mean love in action, the heralding of the message of salvation and the winning of souls" (Wycliffe Commentary, p. 1108).

"Remain" – the only fruit that will remain forever is the fruit that Christ grows through our lives as we abide in Him.

The fruit of the Spirit and the fruit of souls will bring with it eternal reward.

Verse 17 is transitional. This love toward one another is all the more needed in light of the hatred we will experience by the world (v. 18ff).