

Sovereign Grace Church

“Christian Love” outline

August 27, 2017

John 15: 9-17

During Corn Days we considered Jesus' analogy of the vine and branches as illustrative of our bearing fruit through our intimate relationship with Christ. As we abide in Him, the Father prunes (cleanses) us such that we bear ever increasing fruit. The Christian is never “left alone,” but the Father continues to work with him, bringing him to ever greater maturity and fruitfulness. To be “left alone” by Christ is not to be loved by Him...but to be abandoned to our own stubborn wills and the consequences thereof!

In the next section of John 15 our motivation for abiding in Christ is discussed. The primary motivation for abiding in anything is love. If we spend our days abiding in the world then it only demonstrates that our first love is the world. We are called to live in the world but to abide in Christ.....and if we are abiding in Christ, the world will have a different “look” and our place in it will take on a meaning which transcends it. This love in all its manifestations originates from the nature of God's being....thus in a real sense, love DOES make the world go round! But not just any love...as we shall see.

1. Christian Love results from abiding in Christ's Love 9-10 I Jn. 4:19

- Christ Loves us as the Father Loved Him. v. 9

- Christ showed His Love for the Father in Obedience. 10b
Jn. 12: 49-50

- We show our Love for Christ by Obeying Him 10a
Jn 14:15

- Real Love leads to Real Peace Jn 14:27; 16: 33; Jn 14:12

2. Christian love celebrates Christ's Joy v. 11 Heb. 12: 2; Matt 25:21

3. Our love for Christ prompts us to Love One Another vv. 12-13

- Loving our brothers is a Sign of Belief I Jn. 3: 14
- Loving our brothers is an effective Apologetic Jn 13: 35
- Reciprocity of Love I John 4: 19
- How do we Love one another? v. 13; Rom. 5: 7-8; 13: 8-10

4. Christ calls us His friends. 14-17

- Friendship predicated on Obedience predicated on Love v. 14
- Friends vs. Servants v. 15
- Choosing friends v. 16 Lk 14: 26

Application: Matthew 10: 37-39

Questions for Conversation and Fellowship

1. Where or with Whom do you find yourself “abiding”? How do you start your day? How do you end it? How does our “abiding” affect who we are and what we do? Can we choose to “abide” elsewhere?
2. Do you love your fellow believers? Do your fellow believers know that you love them? Does loving your fellow believers mean that you will always agree with them? What does it mean?
3. What is the difference between being a “friend” of Jesus and merely his “servant”? How is it then that Paul refers to himself as a “bondservant of Jesus Christ” (Romans 1:1)? How is this reconciled?