

## ***Session 2 Abandoned Love (Jn. 15:7-17)***

***“Let me drink from the river of Your pleasures as I delight in Your beauty.” (Ps. 36:8; 37:4)***

### **I. REVIEW**

- A. In John 13-17, Jesus envisions, calls and equips the Church to engage with God in order to walk fully in five components of the love of God He wants to us to experience and express.
1. ***God’s love for God*** (Jn. 13:3; 14:31; 15:9, 12; 17:23-24, 26)
  2. ***God’s love for us*** (Jn. 13:1, 23, 34-35; 14:21, 23; 15:9, 12; 16:27; 17:23)
  3. ***God’s love in us towards Him*** (Jn. 14:15, 21, 24, 28; 15:12, 17; 16:27; 17:26)
  4. ***God’s love in us towards another*** (Jn. 13:34-35; 15:12, 17)
  5. ***God’s love in us for a hostile world through the apostolic witness*** (13:35; 14:12; 15:18-27; 16:8-9)
- B. In ***John 14***, Jesus teaches His disciples how, by His death on the cross, we will have full access to the Father’s presence through spiritual union. It is through spiritual union the grace of the Father and His power is released in our hearts to fulfill what is required. ***John 15*** is Jesus instructing His disciples that it is essential to actively engage (abide) in the relationship in order to bear fruit (Jn. 13:34-35; 14:12; 14:27; 15:4, 11-12, 27; 16:1, 33; 17:20-26). ***John 16*** highlights how the church is to function as a witness of God’s love to a hostile world.
- C. The Trinity is seen in each chapter of this discourse, yet each Person is more prominent than another in each chapter. Each Person has a specific role in bringing the church into her destiny. John 14 shows the role of the ***Father***, John 15, the role of the ***Son***, and John 16, the role of the ***Spirit***.
- D. John 15 focuses on abiding as the key to a victorious and vibrant Christian life. There are several elements applicable to the fruitfulness we are to bear, however, in context, the premier fruit we are to bear is love as the ultimate inward and outward manifestation of God’s supernatural work in our heart. Jesus links the bearing of fruit (15:1, 4-5, 8) to the keeping of His command (15:10-12) which He states is ‘to love another’ (15:17). Jesus called His people to love one another as He loves us (13:34; 15:12-13; 17:21). This includes loving our adversaries (15:17-18). The John 13:34 requirement to love is only possible through interaction with Jesus as our source of life and grace.
- <sup>34</sup>***A new commandment (15:17)... you love one another; as I have loved you... <sup>35</sup>By this all will know that you are My disciples, ....” (Jn. 13:34-35)***
- <sup>8</sup>***“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples ... <sup>17</sup>These things I command you, that you love one another (Jn. 15:8, 17)***
- E. We cannot grow in the measure and quality of love that Jesus requires by our own strength and fervor. Jesus as after the development of fruit in us that magnifies and reveals the Father.
- <sup>7</sup>***If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. (Jn. 15:7-8)***

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## II. ABIDING: YIELDING MORE FULLY TO HIM

- A. In Jn. 13-17 each of the 5 chapters build on each other and each following chapter reinforces and expounds on the other. In Jn. 14, Jesus lays the foundation of our spiritual union with the Father. In Jn. 15 He instructs His disciples on how to actively engage and live (abide) in Him.
- B. One of the main themes of Jn. 13-17 is the reality of the Father's glory (Jn. 13:31, 32; 14:13; 15:8; 17:4, 10) revealed in and through His people. When talking about God's glory, it refers to the revealing of His attributes, administration and power. The fruit that Jesus calls us to bear is for that purpose, to bring those around us into a greater understanding of who the Father is.
- C. It is in the place of interacting with God through His word that we have the promise that God hears us. We can ask the Father anything we want and He will respond (15:7). However, Jn. 15:8 hints that if we are to ask for anything, we are to ask the Father to help us bear the fruit of love.
- D. Spiritually speaking, hunger begets hunger and the "rich get richer." As we remain active in engaging the Lord through simple dialogue and a spirit of obedience, the result is a greater desire to yield to Him more in loving obedience. We become His disciples all the more. We begin to ask the question, "How far will You let me go? How abandoned will You let me be?"

*<sup>8</sup>By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so (in order that) you will be My disciples (obedient love produces great desire to follow and obey Jesus). (Jn. 15:8)*

- E. The fruit we are called to bear in the context of Jn. 15 is, firstly, forgiving love, but it is not limited to that. We are also called to bear the fruit of obedient love (Jn. 14:21, 23). Jesus wants love rooted in a spirit of obedience that further enhances the experience of love (Jn. 15:10).

*<sup>10</sup>If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. (Jn. 15:10)*

- F. The fruit we bear also includes the impact of our ministry, calling others to walk in the same quality of obedient love that Jesus is seeking to produce in us. The quality of ministry is based on this gospel-metric that our preaching and service of others is to produce largeness of heart and obedient love in others. He will not assess the largeness of our following but gospel fruit.

*<sup>22</sup>"But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life." (Rom. 6:22)*

*<sup>14</sup>If anyone's work (fruit) which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup>If anyone's work (fruit) is burned, he will suffer loss (Jn 15:6); but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. (1 Cor. 3:14-15)*

*<sup>13</sup>"... that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles. (Rom. 1:13)*

*“When you say Yes to God unconditionally, you have no idea how far this Yes is going to take you.” Hans Urs von Balthassar*

### III. ABIDING IN THE FATHER’S LOVE AND THE SPIRIT OF OBEDIENCE

- A. In Jn. 15:8 Jesus taught an important principle, which is that the only way we can stoke and cultivate spiritual hunger is through the spirit of obedience. Essential to greater hunger is bearing the fruit of obedient love. The apostle Peter taught this to the early church with zeal.
- B. Peter taught that the multiplication of God’s presence and power on the heart comes through the experiential knowledge of God (2 Pet. 1:2-3). Through the privilege and power of spiritual union we have the ability to walk free from the power and effects of sin in our lives (2 Pet. 1:4). However, it is not enough to encounter God’s presence. It is important that we engage the Lord with a spirit of obedience, a “yes” in us to diligently seek to obey His ways (2 Pet. 1:5-7).
- C. When we add the spirit of obedience, responding to the work of grace in us, Peter tells the church that this is the assured way to cultivating a vibrant, fruitful Christian life (2 Pet. 1:8-9).
- <sup>3</sup>...as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him ...<sup>4</sup>... that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. <sup>5</sup>... giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue ... knowledge, <sup>6</sup>... self-control, ... perseverance, ... godliness, <sup>7</sup>... brotherly kindness, ... love. <sup>8</sup>For if these things (spirit of obedience) are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Pet. 1:3-8)*
- D. So important is the spirit of obedience in the context of abiding that Peter committed himself to speaking about this often and he ensured that this message continued after his death.
- <sup>12</sup>For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things (obedience) ...<sup>13</sup>Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, ...<sup>15</sup>Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things (obedience) after my decease. (2 Pet. 1:12-15)*
- E. Jesus taught that the experience of living in the Father’s love is to be coupled with obedience. He simply sums up obeying Him with us committing to love one another—Jn. 15:12, 17.
- <sup>10</sup>If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. (Jn. 15:10)*
- <sup>14</sup>For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Gal. 5:14)*
- F. Love is who God is. Therefore, His love is vast. The Father’s love is found in UNDERSTANDING the death of Christ (Jn. 3:16; 10:17; 1 Jn. 4:19; Isa. 53:10), the giving of the book of Revelation to Jesus (Jn. 5:20; Rev. 1:1), our desire to receive Christ (Jn. 5:42-43), the hope to come (Rom. 5:1-5), the resurrection of the saints (1 Jn. 3:1-2), compelling us to not live for ourselves (2 Cor. 5:14-15), and all things belonging to Jesus (Jn. 3:35, Lk. 12:31; 1 Cor. 3:21-23).