

## Lesson 19 THE WONDERFUL LOVE

*Even as the Father Hath Loved Me, I Also Have Loved you - John 15:9*

Do you recognize love when you encounter it? Is it possible to misinterpret it?

Do you know what love looks like?

What does love sound like?

What does love feel like?

### I. Introduction

- a. All that the natural vine does for the natural branch, it does under the compulsion of a law of nature: there is no personal **living love** between a natural vine and its branch.
- b. In the verse under study, Christ leaves the language of parable, and speaks plainly from the **experiential** perspective of the relationship between the Father and himself and between Him and the believer.
- c. Much as the parable could teach, it could not teach the incredible intimacy of the relationship between the Father and the Son. Nor can it teach the experience of love that **binds** the believer to Christ.
- d. Without a proper sense of the robustness and intensity of this love (agape) in which Christ is **embraced** by the Father and in which He also embraces us, we are left with a sterile view of our relationship with Him.
- e. We fail to **comprehend** this love. It is easy to look at the facts of Christ as a Savior and as a supplier of every need, accepted and trusted by us and yet to have missed the detail of this love that binds us to Him.
- f. Nonetheless, even though we are not adequate to **fully grasp** the significance, power, and pure beauty of this love, let us explore the love of the Father by examining what Scripture may reveal to us about it
- g. In this verse, Christ seeks to point us to the significance of this word and He desires to **show us** our true relationship with the Father and the Son.

### II. The Love of the Father for the Son

- a. And how does He help us to understand this love? He leads us once again to Himself, to show us how **identical** His own life is with ours. Even as the Father loved Him, He loves us.
- b. His life as vine **dependent** on the Father was a life in the Father's love; that love was His strength and His joy; in the power of that divine love resting on Him He lived, and in it He suffered, and in it He died and rose again.
- c. Who can understand such love? The love of the Father toward his only-begotten Son is the **deepest** intimacy of which we can conceive. As recipients of it we should contemplate it often. *1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, KJV*
- d. However, what Scripture reveals of this deep intimacy of agape can only take our intellect around its edges without allowing us into the richness of its depths and the **fullness** of its detail. *Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. KJV*
- e. And how did the Father love Him? Through the infinite desire and delight of God to bestow upon the Son all He is Himself, and to make known to the Son the most complete **equality** with Himself. *Phil 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: KJV*
- f. The love that the Father has for the Son is also manifest in that the Father **reveals** everything that He is doing to the Son. *John 5:20 For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: KJV*
- g. The Father manifests His love for the Son by living in the Son to such an extent that anyone who saw Jesus **saw the Father**. *John 14:9 he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; KJV*
- h. The Son **knew** that the Father loved Him as this was explicitly expressed and repeated many times by each of the Gospel writers. *Matt 3:17 This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. KJV*
- i. The Father loved His Son as His **Mediator** between God and man: *Matt 17:5 This is my beloved Son. Hear ye Him.*
- j. Even when Christ was made sin and a curse for us, and *it pleased the Lord to bruise him*, yet the Father's love steadfastly **endured**. *Ps 89:33. Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, KJV*
- k. The love of the Father is also seen in His satisfaction with His Son's **completed** work as Messiah. *John 10:17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life,*
- l. Finally, the love of the Father for His Son is manifest in the act of the **resurrection** of the Son from the dead. This He could not have done had Christ failed in any aspect of their relationship. *Acts 13:30 But God raised him from the dead: KJV*

### III. The Effect of This Love Upon the Son

- a. This love that the Father has for His Son is a **mystery** of glory of which we can form no clear conception, we can only bow and worship as we try to think of it.
- b. It is the love of God toward his **coequal** Son; the Son who is like him in all aspects of His person that gave Christ the confidence to perform His mission of mercy. *John 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God. KJV*
- c. The same love that emanated from the Father was reflected back to Him by the Son who lived to love and to **serve** His Father. *Matt 22:37 Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. KJV*
- d. It is this love that **motivated** the greatest sacrifice known to man. *John 14:31 But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do.*
- e. Even though the world **hated** Jesus and rejected His words, their hatred was made of no effect because Jesus abode in the love of His Father. *John 15:24 If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. KJV*
- f. In unceasing consciousness Jesus knew and rejoiced that the Father loved Him and **dwelt** in Him. *John 14:11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: KJV*
- g. What the Father's love was to Him, His love will be to us. If that love made Him the true Vine, His love can make us **true** branches. *"Even as the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you."*
- h. If we are to live like Him, as branches to be truly like our Vine, we must share in this too. Our life must have its breath and being in a heavenly love **as much as His** life had its breath and being in it.

### IV. The Effect of This Love Upon US

- a. Just as the Father loved Christ, with this very same love, Christ longs in an infinite desire and delight to bestow upon us all **He is and has**. *John 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. KJV*
- b. With this very same love He desires to make us **partakers** of His own nature and blessedness, to live in us and to have us live in Himself. *2 Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, KJV*
- c. This love, of which we are the recipients, is powerful and effective enough to see us through virtually any **experience** that this life may present to us. *Rom 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. KJV*
- d. If Christ loves us with such an intense, such an infinitely powerful divine love, what is it that hinders it triumphing over **every obstacle** that we encounter and completely enveloping us day to day?
- e. It is only the **Holy Spirit** who can shed abroad in our hearts and reveal in its all-conquering power without interruption this wonderful love of God in Christ that is ours. *Rom 5:5 because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. KJV*
- f. It is the vine itself that must give the branch its growth and fruit by sending up its sap. It is Christ Himself who must by His Holy Spirit dwell in the heart; then shall we know and have in us the love that passeth **knowledge**. *Eph 3:19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. KJV*
- g. *As the Father loved Me, so have I loved you*-Shall we not draw near to the personal living Christ, and trust Him, and yield all to Him, that we may **avail** ourselves of this love which is ours?

### V. Application

- a. If the Father so loved the Son and the Son in turn so loves us, what effect ought this love to produce in you?
- b. Does your life reflect the super-abundance of God's love?
- c. If not, what hinders it from spilling out of you in your transactions with others?