

Lesson 20 ABIDE IN MY LOVE

Even as the Father Hath Loved Me, I Also Have Loved You: Abide Ye in My Love - John 15:9

Driving experience

I. Introduction

- a. *Abide in My love*-We speak of a man's home as his abode. Our abode, the home of our **spirit**, is to be the love of Christ.
- b. We are to live our life there, to be at home there all day long: this is what Christ means our life to be, and can make it in reality. Our continuous abiding in the Vine is to be an abiding in **His love**.
- c. You have probably heard or read of what is called the higher, or the **deeper life**, of the richer or the fuller life, or of the abundant life. This is that for which we ought to strive. *"If I don't go deep I can't go high."* Pastor Rich
- d. It is the rare Christian who has apprehended this reality and who lives it. But those who do would readily describe the complete **joy** of doing so and the utter release they experience from the entrapment of this life. *John 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. KJV*
- e. If you asked them how it was this great blessing came to them, many would tell you it was simply this, that they were led to believe that this abiding in Christ's love was meant to be **a reality**.
- f. These would further confess that they **sought** this reality and were made willing to give up everything for it, and then were they enabled to trust Christ to make it true to them. *Matt 13:45-46 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. KJV*
- g. What can we learn from Scripture about appropriating this love as our **continuous life**?

II. Apprehending Christ's Love

- a. The love of the Father to the Son is **not** a sentiment or emotion-it is a divine life, an infinite energy, an irresistible power. Christ was not dependent upon a "feeling" for His strength.
- b. The eternal love of the Father for His Son, Messiah is reflected in the Old Testament. These were Christ's **constant** meditations and served as a continual reminder of the abiding nature of their relationship. *Isa 42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my spirit delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. KJV*
- c. This love carried Christ through life, through trials and temptations. It saw Him through suffering and death and the grave. The Father loved Him and dwelt in Him, a continual **presence**.
- d. So the love of Christ to us too is a continual presence, an infinite living power that will work in us all He delights to give us. And, what He delights to give us is not meager or stingy, but rather **abundant** to overflowing. *John 10:10 I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. KJV*
- e. The utter weakness inherent in the average Christian life is that we do not understand the love of Christ and most would not **recognize** it if they saw it with their own eyes.
- f. The average believer does not naturally **believe** that this divine love really does delight in us, and will possess and work all in us as an active force.
- g. Because we do not believe it, we do not **pursue** it as something worthy of our earnest spiritual desire. *Prov 2:1-5 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. KJV*
- h. If we do not believe it, then we will not pursue it. If we do not pursue it or at least respond **receptively** to it, we shall not apprehend it. *Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. KJV*
- i. In terms of our vine and branch analogy, we do not take time to observe the Vine bearing the branch so entirely, so completely and so effectually that **everything** it needs is worked into it.
- j. What would our life look like if we were abiding in His love **moment by moment**?

III. Imagine

- a. If one were completely abiding in the love of Christ in one's daily experience when the slings and arrows of the enemy fly, when sickness, affliction, trial and temptation arise, one's **response** would be different.
- b. In the following scenarios imagine yourself encountering the situation, pay attention to the non-abiding **self-talk** and then note the response of one who is abiding in the love of the Christ.

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EXPERIENCE	NON-ABIDING SELF TALK	ABIDING
Worried	What am I going to do, where do I start to fix this? How can I ever recover from this?	Matt 6:25-26
Humiliated / reviled	You can not treat me this way. I deserve to be treated with dignity and respect! I will show you that you can not walk all over me like that!	1 Peter 2:23
Tempted	I know I should not do this but I just can't seem to get it out of my mind. Besides, who would know about it but me?	Matt 4:4
Dissatisfied / envy	If only I had the finances to afford that.	Col 3:1-2
Discouraged	I am tired of the struggle and there is no end in sight. Besides no one else is going through anything like this. Why me God?	Philip 4:8
Illness	I am sick and tired of being sick and tired. I want my health back. Oh to be free from the symptoms of this wretched illness!	Ps 119:50

Matt 6:25-26 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? KJV

1 Peter 2:23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: KJV

Matt 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.KJV

Col 3:1-2 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. KJV

Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.KJV

Ps 119:50 This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.KJV

IV. Preparing to Abide

- When the reality of abiding in Christ's love is seen by the spirit, it understands that it is possible to live moment by moment in the experience of it. *Eph 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, KJV*
- What the scenarios in the previous section of this lesson demonstrate is that our difficulty in abiding in the love of Christ is a product of our own thoughts as expressed in the self-talk of the soul.
- In order to overcome the things that make it difficult or impossible to abide in the love of Christ we must understand that our responsibility is to recognize and confess these things. Christ overcomes them.
- The question remains how can we recognize this love of Christ that we may lay hold of it moment by moment?

V. Recognizing The Love of Christ

- One of the ways the love of Christ is expressed is in the word of God. It is not confined to a few special verses, but rather, it is expressed in every thought inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- This is so because God is love. He does not feel love, He does not sometimes show love, He IS Love. It is who He is. Therefore everything that God says or does is in some way an expression of His love.
- Christ was the embodiment of the Love of God; He is the Word of God. Everything that God is may be seen in the person of Christ. This is the love of God in the flesh.
- Therefore, if we want to comprehend Christ or the love of God, what may be known about them is revealed to us in the Word of God. This is the life and the power that infuses the believer. *John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. KJV*
- In the face of whatever situation, it is as the word of God quickens us that we may be carried away with the love of Christ, this is true abiding in the love of Christ. *2 Cor 5:13 For the love of Christ constraineth us; KJV*
- Abiding means going out from everything else, to occupy one place and staying there. Come away from all else. It is impossible to abide in the love of Christ and abide someplace else simultaneously. *Abide Ye in My Love*

VI. Application

- The Old Testament expression, "balm of Gilead" refers to the fact that Israel had the word of God (the balm for healing). But they constantly sought some other remedy for their problems.
- To what extent do you find yourself looking for other solutions to "fix" your problems other than the healing of the word of God?
- Set your heart on and do what Jesus has said in every moment of every day. Abide in His Love.