

**Introduction:**

- John 15:8-11, ESV *"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 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. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full"*
- Three friends were stranded on an island after their boat sank. After some time had passed, they found a bottle on the beach, and jokingly, one man rubbed it, and Poof! Out came a genie and said, "You have three wishes." The first man said, "I miss my wife and kids so much, I wish I was home with them." Poof! He was gone. The second man said, "I really miss my wife and kids too, I wish I was home!" Poof! He was gone. The third man looking around realized how lonely he was and said, "I sure miss my two friends; I wish they were here!" Poof!"

**I. The Father Is Glorified**

- A. He is glorified by our fruitfulness and our proving to be Jesus disciples.
  1. Heart treasure/character. Matthew 12:33 good man brings good fruit out of the treasure of his heart.
  2. Word bears fruit. Matthew 13:23. 30, 60 100 fold.
  3. Fruit of the Spirit. *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit."* (Galatians 5:22-25, ESV)
  4. How well we love: *"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* (John 13:35, ESV). The Passion Translation: *"For when you demonstrate the same love I have for you by loving one another, everyone will know that you're my true followers."* (John 13:35, TPT)
- B. We are most fruitful when we are abiding in Him, the Vine.
  1. Abide means dwelling, connected to.
  2. Abide means to remain, stay put.
  3. Abide is in the aorist active imperative which means... the action that the verb is describing is the result of something that happened in the past and continues in the present by way of commanded to take in the present. This means that the response is fitting for what happened before.
- C. If you were going to set out to bear much fruit what would you strive to be most successful/fruitful in? Love! How well did you learn to love? If you want to prove yourself a disciple of Jesus then you have to love well. Love like Jesus loved.

## II. The Father Loves The Son

- A. Jesus knew the Father's love very well.
1. Jesus at His baptism heard: *"Then suddenly the voice of the Father shouted from the sky, saying, "This is the Son I love, and my greatest delight is in him.""* (Matthew 3:17, TPT)
  2. The Father announces this for the Son! Jesus is now heading in the direction of the cross.
  3. At the transfiguration Jesus hears again: *"But while Peter was still speaking, a radiant cloud composed of light spread over them, enveloping them all. And God's voice suddenly spoke from the cloud, saying, "This is my dearly loved Son, the constant focus of my delight. Listen to him!""* (Matthew 17:5, TPT)
    - a) Dearly loved, unconditionally.
    - b) The constant focus of my delight. Eudokeo - to take pleasure or delight in.  
Great joy expresses the emotional side of God towards that which He loves.
  4. We can't forget that in John 15 we are just hours away from the passion of the Christ. This passion is heavy on the mind of Christ.
- B. The love of the Father is what empowered Jesus to push through to death on a cross.
1. *"looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."* (Hebrews 12:2, ESV)
  2. Love gives us the power to endure, to overcome.
  3. Jesus loves us like the Father loved Him, therefore we are commanded to abide in His love.

## III. Keep the Commandments - John 15:10

- A. The commandments are kept out of love. Love is keeping all that Jesus commanded but the top two if kept will fulfill all commands.
1. *"And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.""* (Matthew 22:37-40, ESV)
  2. Love God
  3. Love each other.
- B. The ability to do so lies in our ability to abide in Him...abide in His love.
1. Love motivates our obedience.
  2. Just like Jesus was motivated by the Father's obedience. Love motivated Jesus through the darkness of cross!
- C. Don't let your love grow cold. Matthew 24:10-12. Don't be offended and do not let love grow cold. Love grows cold by taking offense. Love provides the grace to

continue in Christ when times are difficult. Heb. 2:9. *Jesus by grace tasted death for us all.*

1. Love grows cold by taking offense.
2. Jesus could have taken offense:
  - a) Judas - his betrayal
  - b) Peter - his denial
  - c) Pilate - his pride
  - d) Pharisees - their lying.

#### IV. Experiencing Joy!

- A. When love is present, joy is full! vs 11
  1. "Father forgive them, they do not know what they are doing."
  2. Who for the joy set before him.... Joy is also a part of the fruit of the Spirit. The greater we abide the more joy we will see in our lives.
- B. *"So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him."* (1 John 4:16, ESV)

#### Conclusion:

- The key will always be...Abide!