

Christ-Followers Love One Another

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in His love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.”

- John 15:9-17

In This Series Are Learning That...

1. True believers have identifying, unmistakable characteristics.
2. Each of us should evaluate ourselves based on these marks and then ask ourselves if we are truly “remaining” in Christ.

Some Background

Jesus is in the Upper Room with eleven disciples celebrating the Passover in what we call “The Last Supper”. He is giving them final instructions.

The key thought of this entire section (chapters 15-16) is that true followers of Christ remain in Him.

“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”

- John 15:4

Loving one another may well be one of the toughest things that we are commanded to do.

“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. ⁸For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- 2 Peter 1:5-8

We Should Love One Another Because . . .

1. Love has been modeled to us from above.

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.”

- John 15:9

“We love because He first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. ²¹And He has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.”

- 1 John 4:19-21

“Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other.”

- 1 Thessalonians 4:9

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.”

- 1 John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

- John 3:16

2. Love is to be received and enjoyed by believers.

“Now remain in my love.”

- John 15:9

The word (μένω) “remain” means to abide or bask.

There are some who, for various reasons, seem unable or unwilling to receive love. If you don’t receive, you can’t give.

3. Love is a natural outcome of obedience. It’s easy.

“If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in His love.”

- John 15:10

“This is love for God: to obey His commands. And His commands are not burdensome...”

- 1 John 5:3

And Jesus modeled this, too!

4. Love brings God’s joy and fills our joy to the brim.

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

- John 15:11

5. Love is commanded by Jesus.

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

- John 15:12-15

What right does He have to command?

- a. He showed the ultimate love by giving His life.
- b. We are friends.
- c. We are not slaves who must obey, but friends who can want to obey.
- d. He has the insights of the Father and has revealed those to His friends.

6. Love is a response to our relationship with Him.

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”

- John 15:16

Christ has chosen us and ordained us!

The Father will give us what we seek for heaven’s sake.

7. Love is so important that Jesus commanded it twice.

“This is my command: Love each other.”

- John 15:17

So Ask Yourself, Is my love obvious to those around me?

Christ-Followers Love One Another

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in His love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.”

- John 15:9-17

In This Series Are Learning That...

1. True _____ have identifying, unmistakable characteristics.
2. Each of us should _____ ourselves based on these marks and then ask ourselves if we are truly “remaining” in Christ.

Some Background

Jesus is in the Upper Room with eleven disciples celebrating the Passover in what we call “The Last Supper”. He is giving them final instructions.

The key thought of this entire section (chapters 15-16) is that true followers of Christ _____ in Him.

“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”

- John 15:4

Loving one another may well be one of the _____ things that we are commanded to do.

“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. ⁸For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- 2 Peter 1:5-8

We Should Love One Another Because . . .

1. Love has been _____ to us from above.
“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.” - John 15:9
“We love because He first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. ²¹And He has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.” - 1 John 4:19-21
“Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other.” - 1 Thessalonians 4:9
“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.” - 1 John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

- John 3:16

2. Love is to be _____ and enjoyed by believers.
“Now remain in my love.” - John 15:9

The word (μένω) “remain” means to _____ or bask.

There are some who, for various reasons, seem _____ or unwilling to receive love. If you don’t receive, you can’t give.

3. Love is a natural outcome of obedience. It’s easy.
“If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in His love.” - John 15:10
“This is love for God: to obey His commands. And His commands are not burdensome...” - 1 John 5:3

And _____ modeled this, too!

4. Love brings God’s _____ and fills our joy to the brim.
“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” - John 15:11

5. Love is _____ by Jesus.
“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” - John 15:12-15

What right does He have to command?

- a. He showed the ultimate love by _____ His life.
 - b. We are _____.
 - c. We are not slaves who _____ obey, but friends who can want to obey.
 - d. He has the insights of the Father and has _____ those to His friends.
6. Love is a _____ to our relationship with Him.
“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.” - John 15:16
 Christ has _____ us and ordained us!
 The Father will give us what we seek for _____ sake.
 7. Love is so important that Jesus commanded it _____.
“This is my command: Love each other.” - John 15:17

So Ask Yourself, Is my love obvious to those around me?