**In the Upper Room (5) – If You Love Me, Keep My Commandments**

*John 14:15*

**Introduction**

1. How do we show our love for God/Jesus?
2. Is there any one way to love God/Jesus?
3. Jesus thought so – **cf. John 14:15, 21, 24; 15:14**
4. Love for God
5. Agape Love
   1. **Easier to show what this love is, than to attempt simply defining it. (Which tells you a little bit about this love in the first place.)**
   2. **1 John 4:7-11** – The inseparable connection between God and love.
      1. **(v. 7-8**) – Can’t fully know God without loving.
      2. ***“GOD IS LOVE”***
      3. **(vv. 9-10)** – Action, but not action motivated by emotion. We, the UNLOVEABLE, were loved by God anyway, for He IS love.
         1. ***“not willing that any should perish” (2 Peter 3:9).***
         2. **God desired salvation of His creation, and acted with the only thing that would do – HIS SON’S DEATH.**
      4. In a sense, love is an **expression of extreme devotion. (cf. John 3:16)**
   3. Not devoid of emotion, but NOT EMOTION – “But obviously this is not the love of complacency, or affection, that is, it was not drawn out by an excellency in its objects**, Romans 5:6-8**. It was an exercise of the Divine will in deliberate choice, made without assignable cause save that which lies in the nature of God Himself” (VINE).
   4. HOWEVER – Our love for God is **(1)** in imitation of God, and **(2)** a reciprocity of love (God loved us first, then we loved God).
      1. Unlike God’s love for us, our love for Him IS “drawn out by an excellency in its object” – God.
      2. **Because God loved us, we to reciprocate that love to Him! – Devote ourselves to Him. 🡪 *(“We love Him because He first loved us.” 1 John 5:19).***
6. Keeps His Commandments
   1. **1 John 5:1-3** – The love for God, and keeping His commandments are so inextricably tied together that they appear to be synonymous.
      1. **(v. 3)** – What is it to love God – keep His commandments.
      2. ***“are not burdensome”*** – Those who do not submit to scripture in some areas because they claim, “God wouldn’t want me to be unhappy,” miss the whole point!
         1. **Acts 15:10** – Burdensome (Old Law), because of the curse of sin.
         2. **Matthew 11:28-30** – These commands do not weigh us down with sin, but free us from it.
      3. **Furthermore, DO WE THINK IT MADE GOD HAPPY TO WATCH HIS SON DIE? (Happy with the outcome, but happy that He had to sacrifice Him?) (BUT HE WOULDN’T WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY???!!)**
   2. **Matthew 22:36-40** – Greatest commandment? – Love God – Ultimate devotion to Him.
      1. Whole hearted devotion to God.
      2. **Every fiber of our being is dedicated to the service of our God – that is loving God.**
      3. This is how Jesus loved God, and set an example for us (**cf. John 14:29-31).**
      4. ***“He learned obedience by the things which He suffered” (Hebrews 5:8).***
   3. **NOT EMOTIONAL** – Emotions come and go, rise and fall. However, we can always be devoted to serving God, and keeping His commandments.
      1. **John 14:1** – Don’t be troubled that Jesus says He is leaving you.
      2. **John 14:15** – If you really love Him, show it by keeping His commandments.
         1. Not by an outpouring of emotion, but OBEDIENCE.
         2. **(v. 21, 24)**
7. The Necessity for this Love
8. To Abide in Him
   1. **John 14:19-24** – After the promise of the Helper (HS – Spirit of truth).
      1. **(vv. 19-20)** – Not with them physically, but through the revelation of the Spirit – revealed deeper truth’s of God. ***(“you in Me, and I in you” 🡪)***
      2. **(v. 21**) – in Jesus, thus in the Father, if we keep commandments – through the revelation, and our keeping of it, He is manifested to us.
      3. **(vv. 22-24**) – Through keeping commandments they abide in us, and if they abide in us, we abide in them.
   2. **John 15:1-8** – In order to abide in Him we must bear fruit!
      1. **(v. 7)** – necessary to abide in Jesus’ words to bear fruit.
      2. *Words of Christ through revelation of Spirit* **– cf. Galatians 5:22-25** – bearing fruit in Christ is bearing the fruit of the Spirit – KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS.
   3. **Ephesians 1:3-14** – We want to be IN HIM, because ALL spiritual blessings are found there.
9. To Abide in His Love
   1. **John 14:23 –** ***“My Father will love him”*** – conditional upon keeping His word.
      1. Father loves him by making His home with them.
      2. **Home made with them, they dwell in one, if one keeps His commandments.**
   2. **John 15:9-10** – His love is something we must abide in.
      1. **(v. 10)** – We abide in His love by keeping His commandments.
      2. **THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT JESUS DID TO ABIDE IN GOD’S LOVE.**
   3. **Jude 20-21** – We are to keep ourselves in God’s love, and this is accomplished by being built up by God’s word in our faith.
   4. **1 John 4:10; 2:2** – God loved us by making Jesus the propitiation for our sins.
      1. This love was also expressed to the ENTIRE WORLD.
      2. ***However, there is a degree of God’s love which is only experienced by those who keep His commandments.***
      3. **THAT IS, THE BENEFITS OF THE ACTION OF GOD’S LOVE IN JESUS’ SACRIFICE.**
   5. **1 John 1:5-7** – The full benefits of God’s gift of love, the cleansing of our sins in Jesus blood which is the propitiation for our sins, **is enjoyed by those who walk in light, that is, keep His commandments.**
   6. ***“[God our Savior] is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy” (Jude 24).*** 🡪
   7. **Romans 8:31-39** – Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. (Except ourselves of course – by refusing to keep His commandments.)

**Conclusion**

1. The Bible is very clear about what it means to love God.
2. Jesus said, ***“If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15***).
3. **Are we going to reject Jesus’ explanation of love, or submit to it fully?**