

If You Love Me
John 14: 15
“If you love me, keep my commands.”

Intro: If you love me...

His previous words focused upon what one receives in prayer, but these words are about the ethical reminder of truly being His follower.

1. The Condition to Consider... ‘if’ (eav) subordinating conjunction

If, is a big word with bigger consequences...If, I would have....If only I’d done _____; If they would have chosen a better time, words, place, or decision.

Many of our biggest concerns HINGE on If...

If is the hinge on which your most important decisions will be made!

2. The Person to Ponder... ‘you’ second person plural (All of you...you all)

We never have more problems with anyone other than ourselves.

“Not my brother, not my sister, but it’s me O’ Lord, standing in the need of prayer.”

Don’t focus on someone else...focus on you...

Help me, O Lord not to excuse my actions, avoid any action or delay any action by peering over someone else’s fence and comparing the state of their garden with mine.

3. The Passion to Foster... ‘love’ (agape) present active subjunctive, second person plural

God wants to be loved with God’s kind of love. He is not wanting to be your (phileo) friend or your (starge) family friend to love. This is the highest form of love and can only come from Him. So, what He is saying, ‘If you love me with my kind of love...’

One commentator writes, “For John love is the basis of everything. God loves Jesus; Jesus loves God; God loves men; Jesus loves men; men love God through Jesus; and men love each; heaven and earth, man and God, man and man are all bound together by this bond of love.”

But don’t confuse this with “We are the world, we are all brothers on the planet, expecting that this universal brotherly love is going to cut it.”

So, where does this kind of passionate love flow?

4. The Person to Encounter... ‘me’ (me)

Jesus...He is the ‘me’ in this passage.

We can encounter church, church systems, religion, religious doctrine and systems, but until we encounter Christ, we will be out in the cold. This speaks of relationship, of intimacy, not just knowledge, academic thought and religious factoids.

We don’t need any more programs or events or social movements to change our lives and the life of our country...we need Jesus!

5. The Path to **Travel**...'keep' (tarasete) future active indicative

The verb is in the future tense, meaning 'you will keep on keeping on'...focus is on the right now, and tomorrow...

Emphasis in command is 'you love and you keep.'

What are you going to have to do in your life to 'keep on keeping on?'

1. Deeper devotional life
2. Meaningful prayer life
3. Strategic service
4. Uncompromised Commitment to the things of God rather than secular endeavors.

6. The Focus to **Maintain**...'my commands' (entolas) plural...

There is a certain emphasis here on this. List of all commands we have studied so far:

7. The Question to **Answer**...

Why is it so hard to keep His commands? **(No example to follow? No plan to begin? No desire to really take seriously? No honesty with one's sin nature at work?)**

Or better yet, 'do I really love Jesus?'...could it be we are more than Simon Peter than we want to be...many words, but not enough commitment, good intentions but more concerned about self preservation, willingness to follow, but more concerned I will be alone in that journey. If there is no loving, there will be no keeping....

Of the commands we have studied, where do you struggle?

Look at verse 16ff...'and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you for all time, the Spirit of truth...

The Holy Spirit is going to be your partner to encourage and empower you to actually keep His commands. How cool is that!

So, go ahead and admit it: **I can't do this, without You, Jesus! Help!"**

"Oh how I love Jesus, Oh how I love Jesus, Oh how I love Jesus, because He first loved me."