



“A Home of Love” | Rev. Josh Keller | May 9, 2021

Acts 10:44-48 ⁴⁴ While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

1 John 5:16 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶ This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

Intro Reflection

Prior to Sunday, what would’ve been your first reaction to the notion that love and obedience are tied together? Is this a natural connection in your mind (or heart) or actions?

Reread the scripture passages.

Background

Josh said that Jesus loves us as he has been loved by the Father. What love is that? The Father and Son are one: a joyful union, and He wants to share that with us. The Son’s love for us therefore is a self-giving love; it’s a love that’s willing our good. Jesus called us friends first, doing for us before we did anything. He, in his love, was therefore changing our hearts, making them new, which should move us to worship and obedience. Said another way: God’s love knows our good and his love directs us to our good.

Discuss:

1. What did you think of Bernard of Clairvaux’s imagery of love as four rungs? Do you see this ladder flipped in your life, as Josh said it often is in our culture as romantic love, essentially self-love, is elevated as the highest love? More reading here: <https://renovare.org/articles/four-degrees-of-love>
2. Josh asked: Do you spend too much time on the first rung: perfecting or improving yourself? Or do you spend long enough in God’s love that you know it?
3. Describe the meanings of the words abide & dwell & rest.
4. Do you dwell in God’s love for you? What might dwelling in God’s love look like for you this week?

Conclusion/Application

Love manifests in obedience. Obedience manifests in this self-sacrificing, giving, other-oriented love. God’s house –and us within it –should be colored with this love. Go, therefore, and abide in His love.