

The Promise of Loving Fellowship and Maximum Joy

[9] As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. [10] 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. [11] These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

John 15:9-11

No matter what thoughts have gone through your head in the past, I want you to understand this.

OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST IS THE SOURCE OF UNDERSTANDING TRUE LOVE AND MAXIMUM JOY.

What I see in this text are 5 statements of Jesus that we don't want to miss.

Statement #1 - Jesus tells His own that He loves them with the love the Father has for Him. **15:9a**

Does God the Father love Jesus the Son? Yes. How much? According to John 3:35, The Father loves the Son so much that He gives everything to the Son. Philippians 2:10 makes clear that God the Father has set a day when every knee will bow and everyone tongue will confess that Jesus the Son is Lord. So does the Father love the Son? Absolutely. How much? To the highest degree possible, and Jesus knew that.

And then Jesus declares to His own, I love you with that amount of love. If God has chosen you out of this world unto Himself by faith in Christ, then you need to know that Jesus is alive and well. He is not an imaginary friend. He is God (John 1:1), and He loves you.

The question though is this: Do you want His love? Do you want to experience His love? Or would you rather push back against that love for you?

Statement #2 - Jesus tells His own that He wants them to abide in His love. **15:9b**

What does that mean? To abide means to remain, to continue, to spend time in, to dwell in and live in, to hold on to, to last, to keep the attention directed at, to stay in. What exactly does that mean then to remain in Jesus' love?

Well, I'll put it this way: Jesus constantly offers His love to you. His love is always there and available for you. He'll guide you. He'll protect you. He'll manifest Himself to you (John 14:21). When You abide in Jesus' love, you realize in everything and everywhere, God is with me. I'm never alone. I'm never unloved. Christ is with me, and He cares about the details of my life.

Jesus offers that kind of love to His own, but if don't want that love then all you have to do is turn your back on Christ, and you will miss the enjoyment and blessing of a loving fellowship that He offers.

Statement #3 - Jesus tells His own how to abide in His love. **15:10a**

This right here is the key to fellowship with Christ. This is the key to enjoying Christ' love. This is the key to a close walk with God: obedience. Put Christ at the center of your life, do what He tells you to do, and you will find yourself living in the enjoyment and the knowledge of His love for you.

I believe we can understand Him to mean this: Live your life according to the Bible. make it your objective in life to learn what God has said and to accurately live according to it.

Obedying the Word of God will force you to make changes in your life. You may have to finally get honest with yourself, humble yourself to God, and confess your sin to Him. It may have to cost you, but to gain the enjoyment of abiding in Christ is always worth it.

Statement #4 - Jesus tells His own to look at Him as the example. **15:10b**

If Jesus had said no to the Father, even in the slightest bit, the fellowship between Him and the Father would have been broken, and He would've forfeited the opportunity to save anyone, but He stuck with the plan. He focused in on that love between Him and His Father, and He would do nothing to break that love.

When we look at Jesus and His keeping of the Father's commandments to Him we learn this: Our salvation, and our eternal life, does not depend on our obedience to Him. Our salvation is hinged on Jesus' perfect obedience to the Father's will and commandments.

Statement #5 - Jesus tell His own why they should listen to Him. **15:11**

Why do what Jesus tells us to do? We gain Joy.

What exactly is joy? Joy is that inner delight of the soul, where a person is calm and strong in any circumstance of life because all is well between him and God.

I'll leave us with 5 thoughts of application.

1. If you want love to be a constant theme in your life, you have to run to God.
2. Jesus tells us to live our life in a close loving fellowship with Him. So if you have pushed back that love, don't run away from Him any longer.
3. To remain in His love, you need to learn to obey His Word at all cost.
4. Thank God that your salvation is not a matter of your obedience, but it's a matter of Christ' perfect obedience.
5. Determine for yourself if you want Biblical joy, and then go find out for yourself the great things that God will do in your life if you seek Him.