

March 12, 2023

Sermon Summary

Jesus Loves

John 15

Martyn Lloyd-Jones said, "Whatever one may say about the love of God in Christ Jesus there is always something more to be said." John 15 shares 3 perspectives of love: Christ's love for us, our love for each other, and the world's love of itself.

Christ's Love for Us

For Jesus to say that He is the true vine was for Him to say that if we want to possess or do anything of eternal significance, we must first be connected to Him. Christ uses the metaphor of vines and vinedressers to emphasize just how dependent we are to be on Him. Our Heavenly Father loves us so much that He purifies and removes things from our lives that hinder our greater good. God does not cut things out of our lives because He loathes us, He cuts things out and disciplines because He loves us, so that we may have a greater joy and produce a greater fruit than if we were to go on with our lives unpruned. John 15:9 emphasizes the perfect love that exists between Christ the Son and God the Father and it is a reminder of the extent that believers are loved.

Our Love for Each Other

We are no longer the enemies of God; we are His friends. Jesus says that we are to love one another as He has loved us. Our love towards each other should be pure, it should be holy, it shouldn't depend on the worthiness of the person but out of God's love that He has shown us. How then are we to love each other? The greatest way that we can is by obedience to Christ. God's love for us is the driving force behind our love for each other and as we love each other, we are simply doing that which Christ commanded us!

The Love of the World

John 15:18-27 is a great contrast to what has preceded these verses. The world loves sin, self, and Satan. The world doesn't just see Christ and the Church as a nuisance, the world hates God. Ephesians 5:1-8 emphasizes the love and priorities of the world while also highlighting how Christians have received a new life and no longer live in darkness. We should not be surprised that the world hates the Church because the world has always hated the things of God. How do we go to battle with the lies of the world? By going out in the power of the Spirit of Truth, the Helper and the Holy Spirit that God provides. This world is lost and it is dead in its sin. If we are to love others the way that Christ loves us, we must go to the highways and the byways of this world and point them to the light that outshines the darkness. We must go with all boldness and without hindrance and declare the excellencies of our Savior. It is by this that the world will know that we are His disciples.