

Session 7 The Two Most Important Biblical Truths (Jn. 15:9)

“Let me drink from the river of Your pleasures as I delight in Your beauty.” (Ps. 36:8; 37:4)

I. TWO GLORIOUS TRUTHS AND ONE COMMAND (JN. 15:9)

- A. Jesus declared that His love for His disciples was as intense as the Father's love for Him (Jn. 15:9).
I refer to John 15:9 as the “two most important truths” in the Bible—each has many implications.
(My qualifier: There may be 10 other truths that arguably should also be seen as “most important.”).
“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love...” (Jn. 15:9)
- B. John 15:9 sets forth two glorious truths to believe (15:9a, b) and one command to obey (15:9c).
I think of these two vast truths and their implication as “titles of books” in God’s heavenly library.
1. **Truth #1:** The Father’s love for Jesus (15:9a) points us to the reality of how God loves God.
 2. **Truth #2:** Jesus loves His people (15:9b) in the same intensity that the Father loves Him.
 3. **The command:** To abide or live focused on understanding and expressing God’s love (15:9c).
Jesus called us to abide or live in an on-going conversation with God around these two truths.
- C. The way God loves God (15:9a) is the greatest love story—it overflows to His people (15:9b).
This is the narrative that we can “daydream” about by asking the Spirit to give us whispers from the Scripture of what He sees and feels about this glorious, divine, eternal narrative (Col. 3:1-2).
- D. Jesus defined loving God as the “first” commandment, thus identifying it as the highest priority to God personally and the first calling in our life. From eternity past, God has loved God with all of His heart—the Father loves Jesus, Jesus loves the Spirit, the Spirit loves the Father and Son, etc.
*37“You shall love the LORD...”³⁸***This is the first and great commandment.***” (Mt. 22:37-38)*
- E. We must see the first commandment in its eternal context of the fellowship within the Godhead instead seeing it as one of many commands. The command to love God with all our heart does not begin with us. It is an expression of the ultimate reality that existed before the creation of the world.
- F. The love burning in God’s heart has at least 5 distinct yet deeply interrelated expressions.
1. **God’s love for God:** Each Person in the Trinity intensely loves the Others with all Their heart.
 2. **God’s love for His people:** He loves His people with all of His heart, mind, and strength.
 3. **Our love for God:** God’s very own love is imparted to His people by the Spirit (Rom. 5:5).
 4. **Our love for ourselves:** We love ourselves in God’s love and grace and for God’s sake.
 5. **Our love for others:** We love others in the overflow of experiencing God’s love (1 Jn. 4:19).
- G. In John 14, Jesus emphasized the command to love God and 5 times He defined it as rooted in a spirit of obedience (14:15, 21, 23, 24, 31). In 15:9, He declared truths that empower us to love God.

***¹⁵If you love Me, keep My commandments...²¹He who...keeps them, it is he who loves Me...
²³If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word...²⁴He who does not love Me does not keep My words...³¹I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. (Jn. 14:15-31)***

H. God is love—He is wholehearted love (1 Jn. 4:16). The essence of His being is wholehearted love. The only way that God loves His people is with *all of His heart*. John elaborated on the implications of “abiding in love” by relating it to the measure that we live in the reality of connecting with God.

¹⁶God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God. (1 Jn. 4:16)

I. Love, by definition, demands an expression—to be shared and multiplied. God wanted others to experience the joy of Their experience of perfect love. Thus, God created humans to participate in this glorious fellowship because ***He is love***. God does not lack anything. He has no need. He did not create humans because He was lonely or discontent or lacked something emotionally.

J. It was determined in the eternal councils of the Godhead to create a race of beings called humans with whom They could share the pleasure of Their wholehearted love. We were created in His image to respond in wholehearted love because it is *who He is* and *who He created us to be*.

K. God’s desires or affections are the most important realities in life. His infinite power and wisdom are employed to carry out His desires—they are used to establish His plan to fill the earth with love.

L. The way that God “feels” is the most important subject. It reveals the “why” behind the “what” of what He does. We understand “what” He did—He created and redeemed—by seeing the “why” behind it. Why did He create and redeem? One reason was to share the pleasure of His holy love.

M. The Lord always loves in fullness because He is always 100% true to who He is. He is never less than 100% loving or 100% wise, or righteous, etc. He cannot ever be less than who He is; if He did, He would deny Himself—even if He were just 1% deficient in just one attribute. He will never diminish or grow in love because His love is infinite in measure and eternal in duration.

⁶“For I am the LORD; I do not change; therefore you are not consumed...” (Mal. 3:6)

N. The Father always loves His people in the way that He loves Jesus because He only loves in fullness. He does not withhold His love when a sincere believer stumbles or struggles with sin.

O. Our spiritual immaturity does not affect the way He feels about us. He never loves us less in this age than He will love us in the age to come, when we live in the perfection of the resurrected state. We *experience more* of His love as we mature spiritually, but He does not love us more.

P. Our hearts are awestruck as we grow in our understanding of the mystery of the love in the Trinity. Each Person in the Trinity enjoys an eternal, mutual relationship of love, humility, and unity. They delight in using their authority to serve and honor each Other (Jn. 5:23; 8:49-54; 12:26; 13:31-32; 14:12; 17:1, 4-5, 22, 24) and have a satisfying relationship with each Other (Mt. 11:27; 1 Cor. 2:10).

Q. Each person of the Trinity fully enjoys and engages in the relationship with the Others. Jesus has joy and enthusiasm in His love for the Father and is moved in loving Him and in being loved by Him. Jesus' love is never mechanical, and He is never bored in His relationship with the Father.

R. Imagine how enjoyable fellowship in the Trinity is and how we will enjoy participating in it!

II. FATHER'S LOVE FOR JESUS (JN. 15:9; 17:26)

A. The Father's love for Jesus is the highest affection conceivable (Jn. 3:35; 5:20; 10:17; 15:9; 17:23, 24, 26). Search out statements that depict the Father's love for Jesus such as He puts all things into Jesus' hand (3:35; 17:10) and reveals all things to Him (5:20). He loved Jesus *before* the foundation of the world (17:24) and releases His own love for Jesus into the lives of the redeemed (17:26).

³⁵*"The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand." (Jn. 3:35)*

²⁰*"For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all things that He Himself does..." (Jn. 5:20)*

²⁴*"...You loved Me before the foundation of the world...²⁶I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them..." (Jn 17:24-26)*

B. The Father spoke of His love for Jesus at His baptism (Mt. 3:17), just before His temptation in the wilderness, and again during the transfiguration (Mt. 17:5) before Jesus went to the cross. We need insight into our "belovedness" as we face temptations or deny ourselves in sacrificial obedience.

¹⁷*...suddenly a voice...saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Mt. 3:17)*

C. The Father and Son have made eternal commitments to each Other. The Father committed to give Jesus the preeminence in everything. He works so that all creation *obeys* and *honors* Jesus and all the saints *love* Him (1 Cor. 15:24-26; cf. Ps. 110:1-3; Eph. 1:20-22; Phil. 2:9-11; Col 1:18).

¹⁸*He is the head of the body...that in all things He may have the preeminence. (Col. 1:18)*

D. The Father's love for Jesus is the measure and assurance of Jesus' love for His disciples. We thank God for the intense, pleasurable, infinite way that He loves Jesus—we ask to Him to show us more! The details of Their relationship give us insight into Jesus' beauty, supremacy, and worth.

III. JESUS LOVES THE FATHER

A. Search out the statements that depict Jesus' love for, honor of, and obedience to the Father (Jn. 5:19; 6:38; 8:28; 14:31; 15:10; 17:10). Search out how Jesus loves and honors the Spirit, etc.

¹⁰*"...I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love." (Jn. 15:10)*

B. Jesus exhorted His disciples to see His death as an expression of His love for the Father (14:31). Jesus' obedience unto death was the most costly display of love for the Father in history. Jesus' declaration "I love the Father" will be stamped over His story forever.

³⁰ "...for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me...³¹ But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do." (Jn. 14:30-31)

C. After "the end" or after the 1,000-year millennial reign when all kingdoms of the world and all the spheres of society are openly obeying Jesus' leadership, "then" Jesus will submit all of them and Himself to the Father as an expression of His love for the Father (1 Cor. 15:24-28).

²⁴ Then comes the end [of the Millennium] , when He [Jesus] delivers the kingdom to God the Father...²⁸ When all things are made subject to Him [Jesus during the Millennium], then the Son Himself will be subject to Him [the Father]...that God may be all in all. (1 Cor. 15:24-28)

IV. JESUS LOVES HIS DISCIPLES (JN. 15:9)

A. Jesus declared that He loves the redeemed in the intensity that His Father loves Him (Jn. 15:9). The way the Father and the Son loves us is the ultimate statement of the worth of every believer. This truth gives every believer the right to view themselves as "God's favorite." John called himself "the disciple whom the Lord loves" (Jn. 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20).

⁹ "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love." (Jn. 15:9)

B. Scripture emphasized Jesus' desire to be with us (Lk. 23:43; Jn. 12:26; 14:3; 17:24; 1 Thes. 4:17; Heb. 10:22). Jesus wants us near Him as His partners in filling the earth with the Father's glory. Revelation 3:21 is one of the most dramatic statements related to our function in the age to come.

²⁴ "Father, I desire that they...be with Me where I am that they may behold My glory" (Jn. 17:24)

²¹ "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne..." (Rev. 3:21)

C. The Lord has given "all things" to His family and prepared glorious things for us (1 Cor. 2:9; 3:22). We will be together with Jesus forever in a paradise that includes beautiful light, weather, agriculture, architecture with glorious décor, art, and furnishings with fragrance, music, food, etc.

²² whether...the world or life or death, or things present or to come—all are yours. (1 Cor. 3:22)

⁹ "...Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Cor. 2:9)

¹⁸ [sufferings]...are not worthy to be compared with the glory ...[to be] revealed in us. (Rom. 8:18)

D. What if the sovereign King was not full of love, goodness, and kindness towards His people but instead was full of anger and torment like Satan, the god of this world?

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God... (Rom. 8:28)

¹³ ...for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness... (Joel 2:13)

6He...made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us... (Eph. 2:6-7)

V. ABIDE IN LOVE: THE MOST IMPORANT COMMANDMENT (JN. 15:9)

A. We are to abide in or *stay focused on* living in His love with much conversation with Him around these two truths in John 15:9a, b. We are to search them out by prioritizing time to study, reflect on, and to speak to Him about the two truths in 15:9. This is to be the primary preoccupation of our life before, during, and after revival. This command beckons us to become lifelong students of “how the Father loves the Son” which also gives us insight into how the Father and Jesus love us.

9“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.” (Jn. 15:9)

B. Abiding starts with words. Simple phrases spoken to God can shift our emotions. Over time, what He thinks, feels, says, and does gradually fills our hearts. I see a 5 part process—**knowledge** (Bible truths), **conversation** (with God), **illumination** (new insights), **inspiration** (renewed motivation to obey), and then **transformation** (new emotions and thoughts) which are satisfying and pleasurable.