

**“Remain “**

## **John 15:9-17**

Good Morning Newsong church!! It is so awesome to be here with you today! Welcome to all of our first time guests! Welcome home! We are so happy you visited us today and welcome to everyone watching online!!

My name is Pastor Jacob, I serve as the youth pastor here at Newsong church , and it is such an honor to be here with you all this morning.

As many of you know we have been in the book of John going verse by verse and let me tell you it has been amazing. We are taking our time strolling through this gospel and we have been learning so much.

No matter if this is your 100th time reading the gospel of John or your first time there so much we can learn and apply to our lives.

The main theme for the gospel of John is believe

Out of the 879 verses in John's gospel, John uses the word "believe" almost 100 times!

In fact, John tells us that the whole reason he wrote this book was so that you and I will believe in Jesus

Our series verse is found in John 20:30-31

*John 20:30-31 NIV*

*30Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

I love that this book points to Jesus and that we can find life in him, cmon we just read it. Believing in Jesus gives us life. That's so amazing.

Last week Pastor Barbara did an amazing job walking us through John 15 1-8 where we learned about Jesus is the true vine and God the father is the gardener.

We were reminded that ***Jesus is the true source*** ... The source of life , of Joy , of Strength. Everything we need will come from him .. We learned abiding in Christ is essential to make it in this life and that Pruning produces more fruit...

if you missed last week or want to catch up on any other week you missed feel free to check out our youtube channel

Today we are going to continue in John chapter 15 before we do that lets Pray

## ***PRAY***

I wanted to start today's message with a question...  
When you hear the word love.. What do you think about?

Some of you might think of cupid, a wedding , spending time with someone you care for deeply, showing affection towards a person.

Maybe you think about all those different love songs you heard as a kid... maybe youre still asking what is love... baby dont hurt me....

Webster dictionary puts it like this. Love is

“a(1): strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties”

“(2): attraction based on sexual desire : affection and tenderness felt by lovers”

(3): affection based on admiration, benevolence, or common interests

people are looking for love, they crave a love that will fulfill them. People love love . Don't believe me? There is over 100 Million songs written about love..

Some are not even that good but people listen to them over and over again. Our culture is obsessed with Love...

Did you know the bible talks about a different type of love? The bible has a completely different definition for love.... A love that is eternal , that is better than any other love you ever experienced before. A love that could only come from a perfect God. unconditional love.

Today as we dive into John 15 I believe you will experience a sense of true Love and my Prayer is that you will hold onto him.

Chapters 13 and 14 take place in the upper room, Jesus washes his disciples feet, they have the last supper

Now they are walking to the garden gethsemane and Jesus is pouring into his disciples while they are feeling afraid, overwhelmed , unsure

Listen to the words of Jesus . I know we read someone these verses last week but I wanted to reread them because they flow right into where we are going today.

**<sup>5</sup> “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for**

**you.** <sup>8</sup> *This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

**Today's scripture:**

<sup>9</sup> *"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.*

*Now remain in my love.* <sup>10</sup> *If you keep my commands,*

*you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my*

*Father's commands and remain in his love.*

Did you notice a theme here? Jesus is reminding his disciples and us today , to Remain in him, to abide , to stay

Just a few verses before Jesus said he is the true vine, he is their source. To remain in him and to remain in his words.

If you like to underline or highlight we should underline every time Jesus says remain in me or abide in me. He's repeating it over and over. This put emphasis on his command, remain in me. I don't think that's by accident or by chance.....

Church if you don't proactively remain in Christ... what are we remaining in?

Are you remaining in the culture? Are you remaining in  
Anxiety? Do you abide in your relationships? In your Job?  
In success?

We go to church on Sunday but then once its monday  
back to remaining in myself not God. Maybe you get to  
church once every few weeks and those times in between  
you are disconnected from the source....

Christ is Telling his disciples and He is telling you and I  
Today, that we have to remain in his love! We have to  
remain in his word , without being connected to the  
source we can do nothing.

The first thing for your notes is this...

***1. We must daily Connect with God***

We must connect with God continuously. Some of us are thinking, well what does that look like ? How can I do that when I'm so busy?

We can pray!!! You have a direct hotline to the creator , to the eternal God.

We can pray. Calling on him when you are having a challenging moment at work, asking for wisdom before you step into that work meeting.

Asking for the right words while you share the gospel to your loved one or coworker or classmate.

Our prayer life should Look like a continuous conversation with the creator.

We can read the word.... Read your bible! Pastor Mike always says it. You want a word from God... you need to get in the word of God. The bible is one of the ways God talks to us, corrects us, guides us, comforts us, renews us, teaches us....

The bible is an amazing gift From God. The bible was  
Written over a 1500 year period, on 3 different continents ,  
close to 40 different authors , written in 3 different  
languages , all inspired by God, It is a miracle that we  
have the word of God. Don't take that for granted

Some people might be thinking well... I got to Church on  
Sunday... That's all the connection I need. God can  
sustain me just from praying once a week , reading his  
word for 30 minutes on Sunday morning.

Jesus is the ultimate source. Why wouldn't we want to  
connect with him....

If you have a cell phone, raise your hand.... Okay. I'm assuming that the majority of you have a smart phone, an Iphone or some type of samsung.

Now when your phone battery is depleted... what do you do... you charge it, you connect it to the power source...

.

Let me ask you this.... If you charge your phone once a week... how long will your battery last? A day? Maybe 2?

(Some of got the Iphone 12 still, that thing will only last like 3 hours)

If we cant go more than one day with connecting our phone to the source..... How can we go 7 days ... sometimes weeks , without connecting our souls to the heavenly father?

How much more important is it that we operate from the love of Christ , than the latest tiktok trend or instagram trend?

We must daily, continuously connect with God. WE Must remain in his love church! Jesus doesnt say , remain in my love... when things are hard .... When things dont go your way.. No he says simply to Remain his love ...

***<sup>9</sup> “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.***

***Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands,***

***you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my***

***Father’s commands and remain in his love.***

As we remain in him... We start to get to know him more and more. AND THEN we will want to be do his will, to obey his commands

Someone said it like this “If we love God Completely , and love unselfishly then all of our attitudes and actions will end up aligning with all the commands, instructions, guidelines and standards of God’s word”

***When love is responded to, it grows deeper and richer and truer, and eventually becomes a glorious experience. If you are not feeling the depth of love you would like to experience, one of the reasons may be that you are not responding to the love which is already reaching out to you.”***

Remain in God's love.

***Spurgeon - “You shall live in the realization of my love if you live in obedience to me.”***

Love and obedience go hand and hand. The only faith filled response to Christ Love is to obey his commands.

This is not the first time Jesus is paring love and obedience. John 14 he is says simply

John 14:15

***15 "If you love me, keep my commands. "***

Jump down to verse 21

***21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."***

What are his commands? I'm glad you asked..

***Matthew 22:37-40 NLT***

**<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied, ““You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.”<sup>[a]</sup>**

**<sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>40</sup> The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”**

Love God, Love others!!

When we remain connected to him , we're not checking a spiritual box but we are abiding in him. We are remaining

in his love... and as we remain something starts to build inside of us... We begin to experience his Joy

***John 15:10-12 NIV***

***<sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.***

***<sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.***

Second thing for your notes is this

***2. In Jesus , we find true Joy***

I love the words of Jesus.. I love that he says HIS JOY will be in us... did you catch that? Jesus doesnt say hey youre gonna have a perfect life.... Once you follow my commands.... You will never face any problems... thats what we want to hear. But Jesus says MY Joy will be with you and fill you.

Jesus doesn't promises happiness... But he offers you something so much better. HIS JOY.... Happiness hinges on the happenings of this life, if you get the raise , if you find that relationship, if you get to travel, if you buy that new watch, or get those new shoes. Joy is rooted in something different. When you have the Joy of the lord,

its never ending, its always with you. Its the ultimate reassurance.

How many of you want to experience the fullness of Joy that could only come through Christ? Jesus is offering it you , its a promise from him... Don't you want to see that in your life?

Jesus is offering something every single person is looking for.... How many people in this world are looking for Love.... How many people do you know that are looking for Peace... how many people do you know that are looking for Joy.

The type of Joy he offers, the type of peace and love he offers you today... its different from what life can give you.... He offers us unconditional, eternal, Everlasting love. His ways are so much better than anything we can experience on earth.

I think its so beautiful that Jesus tells his disciples who are probably so afraid in these last few moments... I give you my peace... you will be filled up with my Joy..... remain in my Love....

**John 15:11-14 NIV**

***<sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you***

***and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> My command***

***is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>***

***Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's***

***life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command.***

There is no greater love than to lay ones life down for ones friends..

Here Jesus is pointing at his own death he's about to experience on the cross... He is about to make the ultimate sacrifice, laying down his own life for his friends but it goes even further.

Jesus is laying down his life for the entire world. He knew it was going to be an extremely painful death but he didn't anyway because he loves you... while we were still sinners Jesus died for you... Even when you

didn't believe he was real he still chose to lay down his life for you....

**Romans 5:8**

**NIV**

***<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:***

***While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***

**We see here Jesus AGAIN is tying** love and obedience together. If you keep my commands you will remain in my love... if you are my friends you will do what I command. If you love Jesus here ... in your heart... with

your mind.... Then you have to let that love move from your heart, to your mouth, to your hands to your feet.

We can't say we're christian on Sunday and go to church then once it hits monday morning at 12 am we are acting like we don't know God at all.

There is a blessing in Obedience! Jesus already said... by obeying his commands , you remain in his love....

Obedience demonstrates that you are a friend of God!

What an honor.

BUT what you DO can be done in the wrong way!!

What Do I mean by that... when you walk around with the christian checklist mindset .... I gotta check these boxes and then im a christian , then Im following Jesus the right way . I dont smoke, I dont chew, I dont hangout with people who do ... I can quote all of the old testament... Thats good but thats not the obedience Jesus is talking about here.

Jesus wants our DO to be a product of loving him, letting him transform our lives, letting him change our hearts, our desires so that we become more like him and less of us. We should let the love of christ saturate our hearts.... To a point where we aren't doing for love but we are serving out of a place from Love ...

Jesus wants us to abide in him, to stay in his love, to receive his Joy that will overflow in our lives and he calls you friend... Now lets see what else he is saying to us today

**John 15:15-17 NIV**

***<sup>15</sup> I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the***

***Father will give you. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.***

The disciples were not Jesus' actual Servants , They were his students. But he's using this word to convey a deeper level in their relationship. Their obedience to Jesus was not out of obligation because they were a servant, but a deeper bond of Friendship ....

Jesus no does not call you a servant but a friend. This statement holds much more weight in the context of the ancient world. A servant normally would not know his master's business.

He would work, day in and day out, solely because he was told to. He had no say in what he did, or the reason

why he was given a task. His objective was to follow orders... but to be a friend is so different. And to be a friend of the king

***“During this time period ,there was a very select group called the friends of the king, or the friends of the emperor. At all times, they had access to the king; they even had the right to come to his bedchamber at the beginning of the day. He talked to them before he talked to his generals, his rulers and his Officials . The friends of the king were those who had the closest and the most intimate connection with him.***

***Jesus called us to be his friends and the friends of God. That is a tremendous offer. It means that no longer do we need to gaze longingly at God from afar; we are not like Servants who have no right whatsoever to enter into the presence of the master; we are not like a crowd whose only glimpse of the king is in the passing on some state occasion. Jesus gave us this intimacy with God, so that he is no longer a distant stranger but our close friend."***

Amen! We get to be a friend of God! He is not a far away God but he longs for a relationship with you... We don't have to hope to catch his attention but we get to call him savior and friend.

What other religion does the creator call the creation friend.... Every other religion says live a good life, do good deeds and maybe you'll make it to heaven.

Change and then you'll be saved. Jesus says follow me , accept me ... and you'll be saved..

Jesus does not call us subjects but friends. Even though we dont deserve to be called a friend he still welcomes us in.

We need to abide in his love, Jesus's Love gives us true Joy and last thing for your notes is this

***3. When we Abide in Jesus, He produces Good fruit through us***

Disciples, or students , Back in Jesus day would often choose a specific rabbi or teacher who they wanted to follow. In the bible we see Jesus saying to his disciples , come and follow me

Jesus chose his inner core of disciples for a purpose.... To produce fruit and last fruit... Spiritual fruit bearing refers to spiritual values and Godly character - Love, joy peace , patience , Kindness , Goodness, faithfulness , gentleness and self control... We are also called to bear lasting fruit. We need the fruit of the spirit but we also need to spread the word...

We should be concerned with the spiritual wellbeing of our friends and family and our coworkers.

Jesus was about to Go on the cross and Die for the sins of the world. Once he was raised he would give the great commission to his Disciples

**Matthew 28:19 NIV**

***<sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit***

Yes that great commission... that is the lasting fruit...  
And guess what anyone who is a follower of Christ , We are called to that same purpose.

***If the worship to could come up as we begin to close***

Jesus doesn't want to just change your life... but he wants to use you to spread the word of God , he wants his love to shine through you... To share his truth to someone who has never heard it before.

What does that fruit look like in your life?

It all starts in the same place. AT HIS LOVE.

We must be a church that REMAINS in his love not just once a week on a sunday but everyday.

Jesus' love truly changes everything. His love is the fuel we need to get through this life. Church, don't disconnect from the source. Remain in Him. Remain in His love. Let His joy fill you, let His love transform you, and let His love produce fruit through you.

Church if we could stand together as we begin to close.....

We always end our service with the question, what is the holy spirit saying to you?

Maybe you're here today and you realize you are far away from God... You realize that you have never connected with him, you never accepted him as your savior ...

Friend if thats you today , whether you are watching online or here in the room... Jesus is calling you back home today!!!

Once you confess your sins and make him lord of your life, you are his child! You are a son or a daughter of the living God. You dont have to work for his grace, its already been bought by the blood of Jesus! Once you accept him youll never be the same I promise you!

So with every head bowed for a moment, I just want to Pray

***PRAY***

Maybe you're here today and you realize you have not been connecting with your heavenly father... you struggle to abide, to remain in him.... Child of God his desire is that you would know him more....