

John 15 Part 2

Recap: We have seen that true believers **will** produce fruit. We also discussed that as believers, we can passively abide in Christ, but will not produce as much fruit in our lives as we could if we would actively abide in Him. We should revel in our relationship with Christ. We should yield to His peace, and His joy in our lives. *"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."* – v11

I. A NEW COMMANDMENT – *Our Relationship to Each Other*

12 **This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.**

How are we doing with this?

Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD. – Leviticus 19:18

*Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.** – Matthew 22:36-40*

*Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you. **A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.** – John 13:33-35*

This does not mean we have to necessarily agree with one another, or endorse one another's convictions or doctrinal beliefs. We **DO** however, have to have an attitude of true LOVE. We should not slander, back-bite, mock, or ridicule. One of the pitfalls of "fundamental Christianity" is an absence of love toward other believers with whom we disagree. Is there a rule that we are supposed to hate those who align with another political party? NO! I think we as evangelical Americans are failing in these two areas of loving each other.

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness (lewdness), Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance (contention), emulations (jealousy), wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another. – Galatians 5:13-26

13 **Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**

14 **Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.**

15 **Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.**

Have you ever heard a preacher say "Jesus isn't your 'buddy', or your 'pal', He's your Savior and your Lord!" **With Jesus "friend" (or in our vernacular 'buddy') does not cancel out the fact that He IS our Savior, and Lord, and God! Who He is as LORD, makes the term "friend" all the more amazing!**

5384. φίλος *philos*; a prim. word; *beloved, dear, friendly*:—friend(12), friends(17). DBL Greek

This is an amazing example of leadership. If there was ever anyone who was "above" being friends with his followers, it was Jesus! He still retained every bit of authority. He chose to befriend them as well as lead them! His example should challenge us in our families, churches, and workplaces. Friendship and authority are NOT mutually exclusive! Immediately before Jesus is betrayed by Judas, what does Jesus call him?

16 **Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.**

"ordained" here has the idea "to appoint or place"

This is not for salvation, but for service. Jesus chose and placed his apostles with the task of spreading the gospel, bringing God glory, and showing Christ to a lost world. **This is the context and meaning behind "Whatsoever you ask the Father in my name..."**

17 **These things I command you, that ye love one another.**

Restating the command from verse 12 shows us how important it is.

II. A NEW CONDITION – *Our Relationship to the World*

18 **If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.**

Have you ever experienced this hate?

19 **If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.**

20 **Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.**

21 **But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.**

This relates well to the words of Jesus in John 8:31-55

22 **If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.**

Much of this hatred and anger is the result of conviction. Jesus confronts sin – the lost want to keep excusing it.

23 **He that hateth me hateth my Father also.**

24 **If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.**

25 **But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.**

This is a quote from Psalm 69:4

"They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head..."

III. A NEW COMPANION – *Our Partnership with the Holy Spirit*

26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

This passage gives us an amazing truth. The Holy Spirit will testify of Christ **to the lost**. He is our Partner in this mission. Verses 26 & 27 show us that the disciples *and* the Holy Spirit would *both* testify together of Christ.

We are to go, and to bear witness. The Holy Spirit will also bear witness to the lost.

Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it. When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep. – Acts 7:51-60

*But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.
– John 16:6-11*