

More Like Jesus in Love Jn. 15:12-13

Thesis: To help us better understand the love of Christ.

Introduction:

- A. There is no doubt that Christ loves us.
 - 1. If it were not for that love, we could not be saved.
 - 2. It was that love that sent Him to the cross.

- B. In this lesson, we will notice some characteristics of that love and some practical applications for us to learn of His love.

I. The love that Jesus has for us is selfless and sacrificial.

A. This selfless love was shown to us through His death.

- 1. Christ's love was manifest (made known) through His death.
 - a. Eph. 5:2 - And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.
 - b. Eph. 5:25 - Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,
- 2. Jesus loved us enough to suffer the terrible pain of death.
 - a. The death that was suffered on the cross was not something that one would look forward to.
 - b. There was great agony involved; yet Jesus endured it for us.
 - c. Sometimes, when we see a gold cross on a necklace, we forget of the suffering that occurred on the cross.
 - d. As someone once said, *"It wasn't the nails that kept Jesus on the cross, it was His love."*
- 3. By implication, Jesus Himself says that this love was selfless (15:13).
 - a. It was selfless for Jesus to be willing to die for His friends.
 - b. The remarkable thing about this selfless love was the fact that Jesus did not die just for His friends.
 - 1) Jesus died for all.
 - 2) Heb. 2:9 - But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.
 - 3) This would include His enemies.
- 4. There is no greater love than this.

B. Today, our love for others should be selfless.

- 1. We must be willing to sacrifice things for others.
 - a. John uses a very simple illustration to help us understand this point.

- b. **I Jn. 3:16-17** - By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. {17} But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?
- 2. Because of the love of Christ, we should not be so consumed in ourselves that we forget about others.
 - a. Remember, it was the love of Christ that sent Him to the cross.
 - b. We should have the same kind of love for others.

II. The love that Jesus has for us is eternal.

A. The love that Christ has for us cannot be taken away.

- 1. **Rom. 8:31-39** - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? {32} He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? {33} Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. {34} Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. {35} **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? {36} As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." {37} Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. {38} For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, {39} nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- 2. If Jesus was willing to die for us, then He would certainly not allow that love to be removed from us.
- 3. Do not misunderstand: we can remove ourselves from Him.
 - a. When we sin and go against His will, we will have to suffer the consequences.
 - b. While Christ will always love us, there is a punishment for disobedience.
 - c. However, even when we sin against Him, Christ loves us.

B. We need to have this kind of eternal love for others.

- 1. Sometimes, we love others only when they are doing something for us.
 - a. Jesus specifically condemns loving only those who love you.
 - b. **Mt. 5:46** - **For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?**
- 2. Our love for others must be eternal.
 - a. No matter what happens, we must always love one another.
 - b. We must have the same kind of love for others that Christ has for us.

III. Because of the selfless, eternal nature of the love of Christ, we should abide in His love (15:9-10).

A. To abide in His love means that we keep His commandments (15:10).

1. I Jn. 2:5 - But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.
2. I Jn. 5:2-3 - By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. {3} For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.
3. Ecc. 12:13 - Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all.

B. When we abide in His love, we will have a home in heaven.

Conclusion: