

# **Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus**

## **38) Abiding In His Love**

***'As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you;  
abide in My love. If you keep My  
commandments, you will abide in My love, just  
as I have kept My Father's commandments and  
abide in His love. These things I have spoken to  
you, that My joy may remain in you, and that  
your joy may be full. This is My commandment,  
that you love one another as I have loved  
you. Greater love has no one than this, than to  
lay down one's life for his friends. You are My  
friends if you do whatever I command you'***

**(John 15:9-14)**

**We are united to Christ in the strongest possible way – He loves us as the Father loves Him!**

**'Beloved, you do not, dare not, could not, doubt the love of the Father to his Son. It is one of those unquestionable truths about which you never dreamed of holding an argument. Our Lord would have us place his love to us in the same category with the Father's love to himself. We are to be as confident of the one as of the other'**  
**(Charles Spurgeon)**



- ✓ **Knowing Christ's love and discovering the extent of it, is our foundation for living. Everything flows out of this**
- ✓ **The key to seeing obedience in believers is not to teach obedience, but to teach love. Obedience and fruitfulness are a by-product of knowing the depth of His love**
- ✓ **Jesus demonstrated His love to the Father through obedience. Likewise, our love to Jesus will be seen in our obedience to Him, which is a response to His love to us**
- ✓ **Obedience leads to fruitfulness; and fruitfulness leads to joy. The Christian life is a life of greatest significance. The branch that abides in the vine will never be barren**

- ✓ **Nobody ever asked Jesus what He meant by His joy. It was something they were perfectly familiar with**
- ✓ **'Abide in My love'. The disciples love for one another was to replace their rivalry**
- ✓ **We are to love one another as He has loved us. True love is self-sacrificing. It sacrifices itself for the sake of the one loved. *'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'* (1 John 3:16)**

***'No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another'***

**(John 15:15-17)**

- ✓ **We are not servants, but friends or partners with Him in the greatest business on earth**
- ✓ **A servant is never given a reason for his work. But a friend is privy to the intentions and purposes of the One he works with**
- ✓ **Examples: 1) Abraham is called 'the friend of God' (James 2:23); 2) Moses, 'So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend' (Exod.33:11). 'Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight' (Exod.33:13). 'He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel' (Psa.103:7)**

- ✓ **John Wesley, described his conversion as a time when he exchanged the faith of a servant for the faith of a son**
- ✓ **Students seek a teacher of their choice. But Jesus' disciples did not take the initiative. It was He who chose them**
- ✓ **Success is assured when we work in union with Him**
- ✓ **He reiterates, 1) the command to love one another for this ensures the flow of divine life through their ministry, resulting in fruitfulness. 'When I'm gone, don't disband and work against each other'**
- ✓ **2) the need of dependence, expressed by prayer**



***'If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, "A servant is not greater than his master." If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me'***

**(John 15:18-21)**

- ✓ **The disciples are to be known by their love; the world will be known by its hatred. This is mentioned seven times**
- ✓ **The 'world' is a reference to the system of the world under the control of Satan, organized in opposition to God and designed to allure us away from God. It includes those who wish to remain hostile towards God**
- ✓ **The word 'hate' implies a fixed attitude**
- ✓ **This hatred shows itself towards those who will not conform to its worldview, standards, lifestyle. The world will not tolerate anything or anyone that is different**

**\*Jesus gives us a life of ultimate significance. But this does not exclude us from persecution. There is little or nothing in the Gospel records to intimate that the disciples were persecuted while Jesus was with them. But after His return to the Father, they would experience it**

**\*It would be wrong to think that we are to blame for the opposition of the world, e.g. if only we were more Christlike, the enmity of unbelievers would be overcome. The truth is, the more Christlike we are the more we will be persecuted**

**\*1) The world's attitude is first based on ignorance - *because they do not know Him who sent Me***

***'If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, "They hated Me without a cause"'***  
**(John 15:22-25)**

**\*2) But they also hated Jesus because He brought the truth, which exposed their sin**

**\*They hated Him 'without a cause'. Jesus did two things – first exposed their sin; then provided the remedy for sin. If people choose to remain alienated from God, it is hatred without a cause. They are without excuse**

**\*People in their natural state are '*haters of God*' (Rom. 1:30); their minds are '*enmity against God*' (Rom. 8:7)**

**\*As we expect some measure of hatred and rejection from the world, we should:**

**1) live in such a way that it is also 'without a cause'. 'If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter' (1 Peter 4:14-16)**

**2) respond to hatred with love. 'I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust' (Matt.5:44-45)**

***'But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning'***

**(John 15:26-27)**

**\*We must not see our task as hopeless, because we have the Holy Spirit. 'But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth' (Acts 1:8)**

**\*The witness of the disciples did not begin until the Spirit came**

**\*The Spirit's role is to reveal Jesus**



**Notice that this witness is in the context of persecution. The word 'witness' is from the Greek word 'martus'**

**The Spirit is promised to embolden us in our witness against opposition,**

***'But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit' (Mark 13:11)***

***'And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him' (Acts 5:32)***