

John 15:9-11
Love and Obedience

INTRO: What is the relationship between love and good deeds and the believer's union with Christ?

The Extended Garden/Vineyard Metaphor

- A) God the Son is the True Vine. *(John 15:1a, 4-5, 7)*
- B) God the Father is the Master-Gardener (Vine-grower). *(John 15:1b-2)*
- C) Counterfeit Christians are the Fruitless Branches. *(John 15:2a, 6; Mt. 3:12)*
- D) Genuine Disciples are the Fruit-bearing Branches. *(John 15:2b-3, 5, 8;)*

Jesus' teaching on love and obedience is a 5-Stranded Cord

1) **The Blessings of Union with Christ include Peace, Joy, and _____.**

PEACE-

JOY-

LOVE-

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2) **Abiding in Christ's love enables believers to bear _____.**

3) **Believers Remain in Christ's Love through Heartfelt Obedience.**

4) **Heartfelt Obedience is the Overflow & Evidence of _____ for Christ.**

5) **The Love of God in Christ Motivates us to Sacrificial Love & _____.**

For Further Reflection/Application: *Lord help us to be effectually doers of the Word!*

The Lord wants His forgiven disciples (v. 3) to mature in the faith, grow in godliness, and produce *even more* fruit. Last Sunday we considered the purposeful pruning ministry of our heavenly Father (the Diviner Gardener). God is intimately involved in the details of our life! We must gladly welcome the Father's pruning knife. Believers must also abide in Christ!

There is no salvation or progressive sanctification outside of Jesus Christ. He is the True Vine (see John 15:1-8, pt. 1 and pt. 2 sermons). Talk about a time when you experienced the blessings of union with Christ (peace, joy, and love). These blessings are also fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5/John 14).

Peace (John 14:1, 27; Rom. 15:13; Is. 26:3-4). Joy (John 15:11; Ps. 19:8; 119:11; Jer. 15:6). Love (John 15:9, 12b, 16a; 1 John 4:19; Rom. 5:8-9).

What is the consequence of "abiding in Christ's love?" (note John 15:4-5, 8-9; Jude 20-21)

In what sense is Christianity "true and undefiled religion" and in what sense it is a dynamic relationship (John 17:3)

How do can you abide in/remain in/dwell in Christ's love day by day? (note John 15:10);

What is meant by the following statement: "Heartfelt obedience the outgrowth and evidence of sincere love for Christ"? See 1 John 5:1-5; John 14:15, 21, 23; John 15:1-2, 8, 10.

How does a husband show his wife that she is his beloved? How do believers show the world just how much we truly love the Lord Jesus Christ? Psalm 100:2; John 13:34-35. 1 Cor. 16:22.

We are not saved by our good works (Christ's perfect life is our righteousness; His atoning death/resurrection is the ground of justification). We are not kept saved because of our faithfulness; (we can do nothing apart from Christ/the True Vine; John 15:1a, 4-5). With that said, the love and grace of God in Christ captures our heart and beckons us to walk as Jesus walked. Note Eph. 2:4-10; 1 John 2:1-8. The grace that marvelously saves, powerfully sanctifies.

By their fruits you shall know them is Jesus Christ's "own canon of sacred criticism."

Fruit = one's actions, desires, affections, words. You can be religious and not be genuinely born again (John 3:1-10). You can attend church and not be truly saved (note John 15:2a; Heb. 12:14; 2 Cor. 13:5).

How does the love of God in Christ motivate believers to sacrificial love and good deeds? See John 15:12-14; 1 Cor. 9:19; John 13:34-35. How can you love your brothers and sisters at LCBC in a Christ-like manner this winter? How can you love your spouse/kids in a Christ-like way (Eph. 5-6) this coming week.

What are some related songs that will help you remember the "5 Strands" of love/obedience?

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