

May 13, 2018

La Jolla Christian Fellowship

Undying Love: Sacrificial Affection Turned Resurrection.

John 15:9-17 ESV

Pastor Harry Wilson

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

Vs. 9-12

- Dictionary definition of abide: "continue without fading or being lost."
- To abide in His love is to be found. To be found is to be separated from the current cultural identity crisis.
- The road map to eternity is etched in *agape*. This kind of love is made up of resurrection material; meaning, it has the power to change lives; to offer new vision and new hope.

Vs. 13-15

- The most extravagant gift you could ever give is your life. This is exactly what Jesus does for us.
- We too often strive to build our own extrinsic resumes of "interesting," instead of authentically compelling others to look towards Jesus.
- How well are we modeling Jesus' love in our own life?

Vs. 16-17

- Jesus is equipping us with the power to produce abiding fruit. This means, the product of our daily labor has the sealed patent of eternity on it.
- To abide in God's love means to embrace one another sacrificially. If "church" is simply a checkmark on our spiritual "to-do" list, then we are missing the point.

"To be a mother is a great treasure. Mothers, in their unconditional and sacrificial love for their children, are the antidote to individualism; they are the greatest enemies against war."

-Pope Francis

Practical Application:

1. Set intentional time to experience God. This could be through The Word, music, nature, exercise, or any combination in which you experience God's love. It takes about 30 days to form a habit; make Him the consistent well you go to. That way, when Sunday comes around, you aren't too thirsty. ☺
2. Practice intentionally choosing others first and loving others well. If there are specific people who find it difficult to love, ask God to give you the desire to love them more.
3. Practice empathy as a tool for loving others. High empathy often induces altruistic behavior.