

Morning Sermon March 10, 2019
“Abiding in Christ’s Love” John 15:9-25

What is important to understand about this passage is that it is a continuation, even with much repetition, of what Christ has taught before. Christ continues to teach about “abiding.” He repeats the emphasis on our obeying His and God the Father’s commands!

In John 14 He said –
If you love Me, keep My commandments. John 14:15

Here He says -

¹⁰If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love John 15:10

In Exodus 20 God gave us the Ten commandments, in Deuteronomy 5 God gave His people the same Ten Commandments AGAIN!

I. God’s loves us when He COMMANDS, we love Him when we OBEY –

⁹“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. John 15:9-10

- 1. The Father loved Christ in many ways, He still does love Christ!*
- 2. Here though, in these verses, the Father’s love for Christ is communicated in the “commandments” He gave Christ –*

A. One thing implied here is God’s commandments are good, this too is something that was taught before –

⁷“For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? ⁸ And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day? Deuteronomy 4:7-8

B. God’s commandments started in Genesis with be fruitful and multiply – . ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have

dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Genesis 1:28

C. The blessedness connected to keeping God’s commands continues to the very last chapter of Holy Scripture –

¹⁴Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. ¹⁵But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. Revelation 22:14-15

We are blessed when we keep God’s commands because they are good for us, so when Christ says ⁹“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you

He is saying, the Father loved Me, by giving Me good commandments, I am loving you too, by giving you good commandments in the same way!

3. We abide in Christ’s love, we stay in it, we continue in His Love, when we keep His commandments, as He kept His Fathers commands –

A. How did Christ keep His Father’s commands?

- Perfectly; Completely; Whole-heartedly, Zealously*
- All the above and MORE?*

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:8

B. Here Christ is saying we abide in His love when we keep His commandments in the same way He kept His Father’s Commandments. We are to keep Christ’s commandments in the same EXTREME, Perfect, Complete obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross way which Christ did, His standard and NOTHING LESS is the standard we are called to!

C. The Apostle Paul understood this, it is why he says –

⁵Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, Philippians 2:5

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

¹⁴Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, Philippians 2:12-15

¹⁴I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:14

God's love does not just save us from Hell but He saves us to SHINE, to be lights in a dark world! We shine when we press toward Christ's extreme obedience ...

II. Christ commands this extreme obedience because it will bring us "joy" -

¹¹"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full. John 15:11

1. This is the joy Paul had –

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Philippians 4:4
Paul wrote these words from prison, to people who knew what power Paul had with him even in prison ...

2. It is what gave power to Paul & Silas' songs and prayers –

²⁵But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. Acts 16:25-26

III. Christ commands this extreme obedience because it will bring us sweet, loving, God-glorifying Fellowship –

¹²This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. John 15:12

¹⁷These things I command you, that you love one another. John 15:17
Note our standard for loving each other is Christ's Love –

1. Which was obedient – He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Love and God's law go together –

⁸Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there *is* any other commandment, are *all* summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love *is* the fulfillment of the law. Romans 13:8-10

2. Which was Self-sacrificial –

¹³Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. John 15:13

⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

IV. Christ commands this extreme obedience because it brings us into real friendship with Him –

¹⁴You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵No 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. John 15:14-15

1. What He commands is always best for us, so why not always obey Him?

2. When we are Christ's friends we will understand the whys of our obedience, our mission for His Kingdom!

V. Christ commands this extreme obedience because it puts us in a place of abiding-in-Christ's-Love and calling that is a place for answered prayer –

¹⁶You 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. John 15:16

1. Christ is talking of a choosing connected to a calling and a purpose:

A. He appoints us

B. He expects us to bear fruit, even glorious fruit –

2. *He answers our prayers in the context of our submission to His calling and purpose*
3. *This is opposite of the health, wealth and prosperity Gospel which claims*
 - A. *We choose Christ*
 - B. *He exists to save us and fulfil all our earthly dreams*

VI. *Christ commands this extreme obedience because He knows our obedience will be hated and challenged by an ungodly world –*

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated you*.
¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ He who hates Me hates My Father also. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ But *this happened* that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, ‘*They hated Me without a cause.*’ *John 15:18-25*

One of the primary reasons Jesus places so much emphasis on our abiding in Him and abiding in His LOVE is because there is so much in this world which tends toward distracting us from Christ, tempting us from loving Him whole-heartedly and showing that love by God-glorifying, fruit producing obedience!

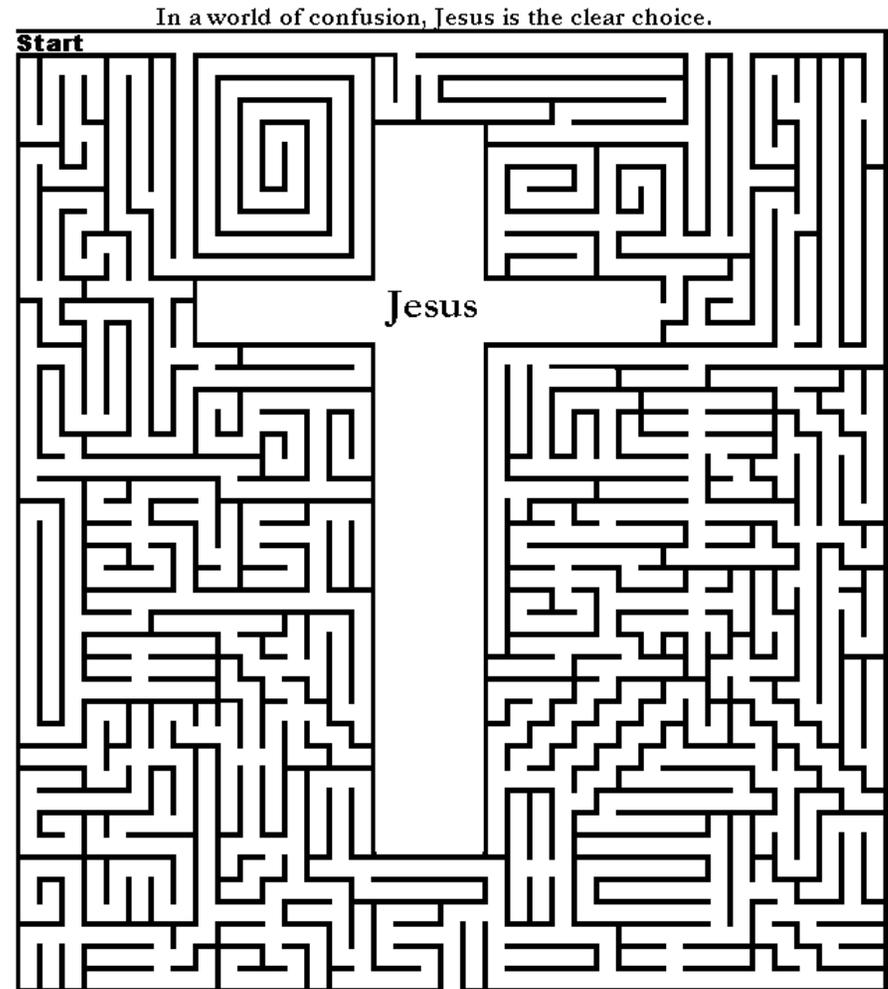
When we are not tempted away from obedience the world hates us and will try to persecute us away from obedience. Paul goes so far as to say -

¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 2 Timothy 3:12

When I thought of the obedience Christ requires from us, I thought of a maze! We start with the New Birth, the forgiveness of our sins and we

find our way through the maze by following the Voice (Commands) and Light (Example) of Jesus –

¹² Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” John 8:12



Created and Registered by Apple Sauce Kids 5/5/02
 Public Domain, not for profit

According to Jesus in John 15:18-25, the more we obey Him the more we can expect opposition from an ungodly world!

1. *This is part of what makes true Christian obedience glorious; it overcomes weakness, pain and even opposition –*

A. *Glorious creatures in Heaven don't do this –*

⁶ Before the throne **there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.** ⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. ⁸ The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" Revelation 4:6-8

Note they are in the perfect environment – before the throne of God.

Note they seem to have all the best qualities of creation, they are full

of eyes indicating perfect perception! They know God and His will!

They have six wings, indicating an ability to quickly do God's will!

B. *What the four living creatures don't have is pain, weakness, struggle, opposition, Christ had these things and so will we –*

²⁰ 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. John 15:20

2. *Such opposition cannot, will not, stop us if we are abiding, by obedience in Christ's 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. John 15:9-10

A. *This is what Paul is talking about in Romans 8 –*

³¹ 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. Romans 8:31-39

B. *This is why Christ's apostles rejoiced in persecution –*

⁴⁰ And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten **them**, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. ⁴² And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ. Acts 5:40-42

You could say it was a sign to them that they were on the right path as they travelled through the maze of this world –

¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Matthew 7:13-14

C. *The Christian Life as I see Scripture teaching is more an adventure or war than a walk in the park –*

"From prayer that asks that I may be, sheltered from winds that beat on Thee. From fearing when I should aspire, from faltering when I should climb higher. From silken self, O Captain, free Thy soldier who would follow Thee. From subtle love of softening things, from easy choices weakenings, (not thus are spirits fortified, not this way went the crucified) from all that dims Thy Calvary, O Lamb of God, deliver me. Give me the love that leads the way, the faith that nothing can dismay, the hope no disappointments tire, the passion that will burn like fire; let me not sink to be a clod: make me Thy fuel, O Flame of God." Amy Carmichael

Abiding in Christ's love is not trusting He will love us no matter how much we sin and therefore sinning to the maximum! Enjoying to the fullest the fruits and pleasures of this world. No, abiding in Christ's love means in response to His love for us - obedience to His commands, taking up our cross daily, and following Him –

²³ Then He said to **them** all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. ²⁴ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. ²⁵ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? Luke 9:23-25