

J.J.

## GREATEST KIND OF LOVE John 15:9-17

*John 15: 9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.*

### INTRODUCTION:

We had a wonderful celebration of love last Sunday. It was a night full of love between husband and wife and of course with one another.

Thank you to Irene who truly took the time to organize to make it a memorable evening for everyone involved. The decorations of the place was excellent. The food was good. The games were fun and very competitive. The music and the dancing truly was enjoyable. We don’t do dancing a lot nowadays.

(Show video) One of the highlights was Roger who took the microphone and sang “Smooth” by Santana. Jett was really clapping for her husband.

Thank You Lord for a wonderful night.

It’s still February. We’ll still talk about the subject on love by God’s grace through His Word.

For the past few Sundays, we talked about

- Love in Action – Servanthood (John 13), where our Lord knowing that He would die on the cross, showed His love by serving.
- The Love of Christ in Ephesians 3, where the love of Christ is beyond measure
- Love as the Most Excellent Legacy in 1 Corinthians 13 – where we talked about that the most important ingredient in whatever we do is love and we talked about how it looks like

And in 1 Corinthians 13, we learned through God’s Word that only three things will remain, after everything is gone.

*1 Corinthians 13:13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love*

**If the greatest is love, today, by God’s grace, we’ll talk about THE GREATEST KIND OF LOVE.**

**One of the most popular songs in the past few decades was “The Greatest Love of All”** by Whitney Houston. It was released in March of 1986. The title sounds beautiful but in the end, it is worldly, look at how it describes the greatest love of all...

*“Because the greatest love of all  
Is happening to me  
I found the greatest love of all  
Inside of me  
The greatest love of all  
Is easy to achieve  
Learning to love yourself  
Is the greatest love of all.”*

Unfortunately, 26 years later after singing this song, Whitney died of accidental drowning due to cocaine use.

**Is loving yourself, the greatest love of all?** Majority of the people believe that even saying, “How can we love others if we don’t even love ourselves?”

**People even use the command of Jesus to justify this**

*Matthew 22: 36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”*

*37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’*

**They misinterpreted this verse.**

**We have to remember that the Bible already assumes that we naturally love ourselves.**

When our Lord said to “Love your neighbor as yourself”, He is saying, “As much as you love yourself, that’s how we should love others.”

This means, we naturally want the best for ourselves, we naturally want to take care of others, we want others to respect us, want others to understand us. We want others to be kind to us, to be patient with us, to be gentle with us. That’s how we should love others.

**So what is the greatest kind of love?**

**THE GREATEST KIND OF LOVE**

We’ll talk about its Source, The Sample and \_\_\_\_\_ (what is the greatest kind of love)

So this is going to be a 2-part series because in order to know the greatest kind of love, we need to spend time learning about its source and its sample.

## **I. THE SOURCE**

*John 15: 9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*

**We all know that the source of love is God Himself.**

*1 John 4: 7 Dear friends, let us love one another, **for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love***

**We cannot do the greatest kind of love if we are not children of God.**

Again, how do we become a child of God?

**The Bible is very clear that if we believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, we become children of God.**

*John 1: 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were **born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God**.*

**Illustration:** When I was young whenever we have family reunion on our Father’s side, I remember that whenever my titos and titas would see me, they would see me, they would say, “Uy ang guwapo ng batang ito...kaninong anak ito?” (Uy what handsome little man, whose child is this?) I remember my Tatay would proudly say something like this, “Siyempre, magandang lalaki yang dahil ang Tatay niyan ay guwapo.” (Of course, he is a good looking boy because his father is handsome.)

**Why am I using this story?** It’s because my Tatay (dad) said that I am guwapo because he is guapo.

If we are truly a real, authentic Christian, we are God’s child and if God is love, **one of the things we should be known for is our love.** Why? It’s BECAUSE HE IS LOVE!!!

**That’s why John further writes in verse 16**

*1 John 4:16 God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.*

*1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us.*

**FOLLOW THE LOGIC HERE:** We talked earlier that if you are truly a Christian, Christ is in you. If **Christ is in you...since Christ is God and God is love, then people should see CHRIST IN US...**

**How do they see Christ is in us? WE ARE KNOWN AS LOVING PEOPLE.**

**Ask yourself?** How do my brothers and sisters see me? When people see this church, is it known as a loving church? Are you known as a loving person?

**Now the question is, practically speaking how does this flow?**

- **First, we need to really “know” the love of Jesus Christ for us.**

*John 15: 9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.*

**Remember, that’s the prayer of Paul in our study of the love of Christ.**

*Ephesians 3: 17....And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,*

**So the question is, how did Jesus love us? so have I loved you.**

Remember, love is more than a feeling, it’s an action word.

*Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

**In short, when we were still unloveable, when we didn’t know God, when we were rebelling against Him, He died for us.**

**The person who truly knows how much of a sinner he or she is and yet God has forgiven Him through Jesus Christ, that’s how we experience God’s love.**

**Biblical Illustration:** This is the reason it was the tax collectors, the prostitutes, the sinners who love Jesus while He was here on earth.

Remember the story of the immoral woman in Luke chapter 7 who washed our Lord’s feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

**Let’s read the story from the Bible :**

*Luke7: 37 And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, 38 and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.*

**The Pharisees (the moral and self-righteous people) were surprised**

*39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner.”*

**Then Jesus told the story of the moneylenders.**

*40 And Jesus answering said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” And he answered, “Say it, Teacher.”*

*41 "A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" 43 Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly."*

**Then our Lord concluded:**

*47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.*

You see this? We are going to really love others much if we know how much we have been forgiven... ***her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown whoever has been forgiven little loves little***

**IMPORTANT Application :** If we truly realize how much of a sinner we are and yet God forgave us and reconciled Himself to us through His Son Jesus Christ, truly, we will also be loving, less judgemental of others and more patient and kind to others because God has forgiven us, shown us patience and has been truly kind to us.

**We all know that Paul is the greatest missionary God has used and he suffered greatly because of this. You know why, because he has experienced the great love of Christ.**

**How?**

**Look at how Paul calls himself.**

*1 Timothy 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.*

**That's how we experience the greatest kind of love : By realizing how much of a sinner we are, deserving of hell, deserving of punishment, undeserving of anything and yet, what did God do?**

*John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

**Remember the quote I shared from John Newton who wrote "Amazing Grace"?**

*Amazing grace,  
How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.*

**Quote :** "Although my memory's fading, I remember two things very clearly: I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Savior." John Newton

**And that's how we remain in the love of Jesus. Allow me to show you by God's grace.**

*John 15: 9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. **Now remain in my love.** 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love*

**Context:** Remember the context of this is the previous passage in the same chapter *John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

**Etymology:** remain “meno” abide, stay, not to depart, to hold it, to keep it continually, to be present,

In short, the only way we can produce anything is if we stay in Jesus Christ, we hold on to Jesus Christ, if we are always aware that Jesus Christ is present in our lives.

**We can’t produce the greatest kind of love on our own. We need to be connected with Jesus Christ. If we’re not connected with Him, we cannot even produce anything.**

**Illustration:** Have you seen a branch working hard to produce a fruit? No! It’s because it’s connected to the vine and the branch produces the fruit.

So it means, if we’re having a hard time loving others or we’re having a hard time being loving or patient or kind to others, **it’s maybe because we are not connected with our Lord Jesus.**

**That’s why again, Jesus said, “*Now remain in my love.*”** Stay in my love, hold on to my love,

**How do we remain in the Jesus’ love?** By thinking and always remembering how much our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and has been kind to us and has been gentle to us and has been patient to us and has been gracious to us. And that even if we fail Him from time to time, remember what He did on the cross for us, that out of His love, HE HAS ALREADY PAID FOR OUR SINS and no matter what is happening to you right now...trust that our Lord Jesus Christ allows this because He loves us and whatever happens...as Paul has written... no matter how many trials that we have, no matter how we are being attacked by the enemy...ONE THING IS FOR SURE!!!

*Romans 8: 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**We sang earlier, “Still”... I will be still in His love..**

**If we do this, it will only flow that we will be forgiving and kind and gentle and patient and gracious to others.**

**By God's grace, let me make this chewable for you.**

"TO REMAIN IN HIS LOVE IS TO REMIND OURSELVES ALWAYS OF HIS LOVE FOR US."

**Remember, what I shared with you before? Do you want to become a more loving person? Always think how much God loves you.**

**If we do this, here's the result as our Lord said,**

*11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*

**Have you ever seen a person in love? Look at them specially when they are with they people they love.** THEY ARE FULL OF JOY. You can see it in their face. You can see it in their step. You can hear it how they walk. Nothing bothers them.

**Illustration :** A young man went home and his mother saw that he has blood in his right leg. But the mother saw that his son was still smiling. The son said, "Mom, I'm truly in love." The mom asked, "How do you know?" The son replied, "It's because I accompanied my girlfriend to her house and when we were saying goodbye, we kissed before she went inside and I didn't even notice that her dog bit me in the leg."

**A person in love is full of joy. They feel complete.**

**That's why Love, joy, peace... IT'S A FRUIT!**

*Galatians 5:22 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control.*

**That's why I know if a person is miserable, he is not a loving person.**

And do you know the fastest way to be miserable? Always think about yourself. Always think about how others have hurt you. Always think about how much you do not have.

**But do you want to be a loving person and therefore be full of joy and peace.**

Remain in His Love by remind ourselves of His love. How much He has forgiven us. How much He has blessed us. How much He has loved us.

**Next week :** we'll continue to discuss by God's grace, Lord willing, the sample of the Greatest Kind of Love and What is the Greatest Kind of Love.

**S.G.D.**