

IN THE BEGGINNING WAS THE
WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH
GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD.

the gospel of

JOHN

John 15:9-11

Introduction

Jesus has a very special relationship with believers, a relationship that delivers them from an existence that is barren, empty, lonely, unmeaningful, and sad. Jesus wants His followers to have abundant Joy. That joy comes only from abiding in Christ!

John 15:9-11

As the Father loved me, I also have 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 have I spoken
unto you, that my joy may remain in you, and that
your joy may be full.

Jesus' Great Love for Believers

John 15:9a

“As the Father loved me, I also have loved you.”

Jesus loves believers. He has loved us with a very special love, the very same love with which God has loved Him. Two profound points are being discussed here.

- ⇒ The Father's love for His Son, Jesus Christ.
- ⇒ Christ's love for believers. (He loves believers with the same love God has for Him.)

Jesus' Great Love for Believers

John 15:9a

“As the Father loved me, I also have loved you.”

1. There are three significant facts regarding the Father's Love for Jesus
 - a. Christ is His Son. God loves Christ because of a natural love.
 - b. God loves Christ is immutable. That is it never ends or changes.
 - c. God loves Christ with a supreme love. Christ paid the supreme price of obedience. He died and sacrificed Himself in obedience to God's will. Therefore, God's love for His Son is very, very special love.

Jesus' Great Love for Believers

John 15:9a

“As the Father loved me, I also have loved you.”

2. Christ said that He loves believers with the same kind of love..
 - a. Christ loves us with a natural love as we are His children.
 - b. Christ loves us with an immutable love. That love will never end or change – even when we stumble!
 - c. Christ loves us with a supreme love. He loves us because we pay the price of obedience. We deny self, take up our cross, and follow Him.

Jesus' Great Command for Believers

John 15:9b-10

“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.”

Jesus has a great charge for believers. We are to continue
or to abide in His love.

1. "Continuing" or "abiding" is conditional. A believer can...
 - break fellowship with Christ.
 - • turn back to the world and to his old worldly friends
 - give himself back over to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:15-16).

Jesus' Great Command for Believers

John 15:9b-10

“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.”

Jesus said that it is up to the believer to continue in His love. How? By doing what any person does when he wants someone to love him. The person draws near to the person they loves: they do good and tries to please the person. So it is with the believer. The believer continues in the love of Christ by drawing near and doing good and obeying His commandments.

Now note a critical point. Christ always loves; His love is always there. But it is up to man to walk in that love. A man can never know and experience the Lord's love unless he walks in it.

Jesus' Great Command for Believers

John 15:9b-10

“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.”

2. "Abiding" in the love of Christ has a standard: it is Christ Himself. He was perfectly obedient to God; therefore, He continued in the Father's love.

Note another critical point. A believer must do something if He is going to follow Jesus' example and keep Jesus' commandments. The believer must study and learn and abide in the Word of God, in the commandments and life of Christ. A person cannot keep a commandment unless he knows the commandment.

Jesus' Great Purpose for Believers

John 15:11

“These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”

Christ has a great purpose for believers. He wants the completion of their joy. Note three points.

1. The joy of Christ: "My joy." His joy and glory was doing the will of God and looking ahead to the joy and glory of eternity with His Father and His followers.
2. The joy of believers is the joy of Christ Himself reigning within their hearts. We live in a personal, vibrant relationship with Him!
3. The joy of believers is fulfilled as believers study His Word, the promises and commandments which He made. We want to know about the one we love.

So What ...

What about you?

How is your Joy-meter?

Where are you looking for Joy?

The answer to your search is found in Jesus!

Let us determine to Abide in Him and walk in His ways so that we can experience the Abiding Life!