

Love & Obedience

John 15:9-17

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First, when we abide in Christ we abide in his love - (9, 12-13)

Precept: Abiding in Christ's is something that is empowered by the Holy Spirit (Philippians 2:12-13) and often requires discipline (1 Corinthians 9:24-27) which too is of the Holy Spirit.

Second, when we abide in Christ we keep his commandments - (10)

Precept: Love and obedience are intimate friends, obedience means that I surrender my thoughts and seek to know God's thoughts on things around me.

Third, when we abide in Christ we love the brethren - (12-14)

Precept: Loving others is not natural for most of us. Loving ourselves is what is natural for most of us (Luke 22:24-27).

Fourth, when we abide in Christ we have great joy - (11)

First, it is not our joy it is his joy first (John 17:13).

Second, our joy is the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:42; Romans 14:17; Galatians 5:22; 1 Thessalonians 1:6)

Third, our joy begins when we come into the family of God and it is renewed every time someone else comes into the family of God, and as they grow up in their faith. (Acts 8:5-8; 11:23; 15:13; Romans 15:13; 1 Corinthians 7:13; 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20; 3:9; Philemon 7; Hebrews 13:17; 1 John 1:4)

Fourth, we find increasing joy in being in God's will in spite of suffering (Acts 4:23-31; 16:25; Philippians 3:7-8; Colossians 1:24-25).

Fifth, we find joy in service that at times can be overwhelming (2 Corinthians 4:7-18; 8:2; 12:7-10).

Precept: If I want to know the deepest purest longest lasting joy, the kind that leaks into all of life I will abide in Christ; I will make him the most important person in my life; I will obey him and submit to his leading; I will make every effort to know him and invest in the things that matter most to him.

Fifth, when we abide in Christ we are Jesus' friends - (13-15)

Precept: Abiding in Christ is at the root of friendship with Jesus because love and obedience are intimate friends in the Godhead.

Conclusion: 1. Abiding in Christ will affect our mind, our heart and our time. (Luke 10:41-42)

2. From verse 16, being chosen and appointed means that God produces fruit in us; God brings forth fruit that remains through our obedience and love, through remaining in the vine.

3. From verse 17, we are commanded to abide in Christ; it is not an option, it's a command.