

Discussion Questions

March 13, 2022

God with Us: Our Lives Empowered by His Presence



1. Read John 15:12-17

As Jesus prepares his disciples for his death, burial, resurrection, and ascension, what does he command them to do? What is their love supposed to look like?

2. Read 1 John 2:3-6

Summarize the passage in your own words.

What do you think John means in verse 6?

How does this relate to what Jesus said in John 15:12-17?

3. As Jesus is walking toward his death he continually repeats the command to love one another as He loved them. Discuss why you think Jesus emphasizes this so much to the disciples right at the end.

4. What is the significance of Jesus calling his disciples friends in 15:14-16?

What does it mean for us to be a friend of God?

5. Practically what does it mean for us today to obey Jesus' command to "love one another as He loved us? Be specific.

How do we make this become a way of living, and not just something we do every once in a while?



John 15:9-17

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.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

Obedying Jesus

- **John 14:15** - If you love me, obey my commandments.
- **John 14:21a** - Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me.
- **John 14:23-24** - Jesus replied, "All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them. Anyone who doesn't love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me.
- **John 15:10** - When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love.
- **John 15:12** - This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
- **John 15:14** - You are my friends if you do what I command.

Ephesians 5:1-2

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

1 John 2:3-6

And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

1 John 3:23-24

And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him

1 John 5:3

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome

The Gospel is not just if you die tonight where are you going to go, but if you don't die tonight, what are you going to do tomorrow? How will you live? - Dallas Willard

John 8:31

Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings.

What must be emphasized in all of this is the difference between trusting Christ, the real person Jesus, with all that that naturally involves, versus trusting some arrangement for sin-remission set up through him—trusting only his role as guilt remover. To trust the real person Jesus is to have confidence in him in every dimension of our real life, to believe that he is right about and adequate to everything

Christians today... have been led to believe that God, for some unfathomable reason, just thinks it appropriate to transfer credit from Christ's merit account to ours, and to wipe out our sin debt, upon inspecting our mind and finding that we believe a particular theory of the atonement to be true—even if we trust everything but God in all other matters that concern us.

It is left unexplained how it is possible that one can rely on Christ for the next life without doing so for this one, trust him for one's eternal destiny without trusting him for "the things that relate to Christian life."

Dallas Willard - The Divine Conspiracy

Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives as Christ Loved the church and gave His life up for her.

Luke 6:46-49

Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? "So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say? I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins."