



THE VISION IS LOVE

A Community of Love

01.28.2024

John 15:9–17

Mike Gleim

John 15:9–17

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 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. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. 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. 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. This is my command: Love each other.

We are a community following Jesus, seeking renewal in our city.

Complex Love That Creates Community

John 15:9

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

John 15:11

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

John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 5:17

This is my command: Love each other.

Subversive Love That Follows Jesus

John 15:10

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.

John 15:14-15

You are my friends if you do what I command. 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.

“Discipleship, we might say, is a way to curate your heart, to be attentive to and intentional about what you love. So discipleship is more a matter of hungering and thirsting than of knowing and believing. Jesus' command to follow him is a command to align our loves and longings with his—to want what

God wants, to desire what God desires, to hunger and thirst after God and crave a world where he is all in all.”

- James K.A. Smith, *You Are What You Love*

A World of Love That Seeks Renewal

John 15:15-16

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. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.

Colossians 3:12-14

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

“There in heaven this fountain of love, this eternal three in one, is set open without any obstacle to hinder access to it. There this glorious God is manifested and shines forth in full glory, in beams of love. There the Trinity loves one another and loves us. There the fountain overflows in streams and rivers of love and delight, enough for all to drink at, and to swim in, yea, so as to overflow the world as it were with a deluge of love.”

- Jonathan Edwards, *Heaven Is a World of Love*

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