



Sunday December 02, 2018
The Father's Love
Part-5 : Abiding In The Father's Love

Acknowledge The Father's Love : "My Father Loves Me"

It is wonderful to examine Jesus' relationship with His Father. The Lord Jesus often affirmed and acknowledged the Father's Love for Him. He also recognized and acknowledged what the Father was doing because of His love for Jesus.

John 3:35

The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.

The Father had entrusted all things to Jesus' hand.

John 5:20

For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.

The Father was revealing what He Himself was doing and would reveal even greater works to Jesus.

John 17:24

"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

Jesus prayed and expressed His desire to the Father, knowing He was loved by the Father.

John 10:17

"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.

In response Jesus walked in obedience to the Father to carry out the Father's will.

The Father loves us in the same manner and measure as He loves Jesus. The Father loves us and He entrusts us with Kingdom assignments here on earth. The Father loves us and He reveals things that He desires to do through us and will reveal greater things than what we have seen so far. The Father loves us and hears our prayers. We must acknowledge and affirm the Father's love for us, as Jesus did.



Abide in My Love

John 15:9-10

9 "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.

The Lord Jesus invited us to abide in His love. He stated that He was also abiding in the Father's love. Jesus lived His earthly life abiding in the Father's love.

As we stated in the earlier chapter to abide is to rest, dwell, settle in, remain, continue in, It implies being deeply rooted, firmly planted, and securely grounded. It is the place where we are quieted by His love.

To abide also means that we will live out of, to draw life from, to live because of, to live through what we abide in.

So **to abide in the Father's love is to rest in His love and to live out of His love.** We are to always abide in the Father's love - which is to dwell in His love and to live out of His love.

Abiding In And Living Out Of The Father's Love

2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

One of Paul's pronouncements in his closing benediction is for the love of God to be with the believers. This means that the experience of the Father's love is not a momentary thing. **It is an on-going, present continuous, moment by moment experience of His love.** We must live in an on-going recognition and experience of the Father's love in everyday life.

We live every day knowing that we are loved by the Father in an immeasurable and unconditional way. Because the love of the Father is always with us, for us and toward us, we can live like a beloved son or daughter. We live as those who are in the Beloved and who are beloved of God. We live out of our identity as His sons and daughters. We live out of a sense of sonship.

What does it mean to abide (rest) in the Father's love and to live out of a place of abiding in His love? What does this look like in practice? How would a person who is



abiding in the Father's love and living out of the Father's love behave and conduct himself (or herself) in daily life?

The apostle John, referred to himself as the "disciple whom Jesus loved" (John 20:2; 21:7,20). So he personally received and experienced the love the Lord had for him. John writes much about the love of God in his first epistle and explains the practical side of abiding in the love of God. We condense and summarize this here in five simple statements:

#1) When we abide in and live out of the Father's love, there is no place for hate.

1 John 2:9-11

9 He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.

10 He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

11 But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

(See also 1 John 3:14-15; 1 John 4:20-21)

John repeats this several times in his Epistle. When we abide in and live out of the Father's love, we are very diligent to keep hate out of our lives. We refuse hate toward anyone else take up residence in us. Hate is dangerous. If there is hate in our heart toward another brother, even if we claim that we are walking in light, we are actually like those who are both blinded and walking in darkness. We do not know where we are going, we grope around trying to make progress, and instead we will stumble and fall.

We cannot prevent people from offending us, but we can refuse to take offense. Some things people say and do will inflict us with pain, but we can choose to let go and not carry the hurt around with us everywhere. Offense and hurt usually fester and turn to hate. Hate blinds us and leaves us in darkness. However, when we are abiding in and living out of the Father's love, offenses and hurt do not find place in us.

#2) When we abide in and live out of the Father's love, persecution does not alarm us and purity is our way of life.

1 John 3:1-3,13

1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.



John announced the overwhelming and extravagant love that God has for us in making us His own children. But then here are some things we must be ready for, being so loved by God: (A)the world will not recognize us and may hate us, and (B)we purify ourselves as He is pure.

When we are abiding in and living out of the Father's love we are not alarmed that the world does not recognize us as children of God. We are not alarmed that the world may even hate and persecute us.

We have the wonderful hope that because we are His children, we know that when the Lord is revealed we will be made like Him. And because of this hope we choose to purify our lives. So as people who are abiding in and living out of the Father's love for us, purity is a way of life. His love draws us into purity and to reject anything that is not pleasing to the Father.

#3) When we abide in and live out of the Father's love, we sacrifice and share.

1 John 3:16-18

16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

It is because Jesus laid His life down for us, it is through this and in this that we understand, experience and know the Father's love for us. This then moves us to do the same for others. We lay our lives down for others. We sacrifice for other's benefit. This translates into practical ways , in "deed and truth", by us giving and sharing to meet the material needs of others.

#4) When we abide in and live out of the Father's love, we walk in love.

1 John 4:11-12

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

Because we have so experienced the Father's love, we cannot help but overflow in love for other people. A great description of what it means to walk in love is given to us in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. *"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all*



things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails." We choose to relate to people out of the love of God.

We are empowered by the Father's love to walk in His love. When we love one another, His love is perfected - made complete, brought to its full purpose - in us. When we walk in love, then His love is accomplishing, completing, and fulfilling its intended purpose in us and through us. This is God Himself dwelling and living through us!

#5) When we abide in and live out of the Father's love, we recognize our spiritual standing, we are free from fear and free to love Him.

1 John 4:17-19

17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

19 We love Him because He first loved us.

When the love of God has been perfected in us, that is, we are in the place where we have received His love and are allowing it to do its full work in us (A)we have boldness before God and are not living in a morbid, tormenting fear of judgment (B)we recognize who we are in the spiritual realm - as Jesus is, so are we - and that is how we live in this world (C)we overflow with love for Him because of His love for us.

To summarize, when we abide in and live out of the Father's love:

- 1, hate towards others has no place in us
- 2, persecution does not alarm us
- 3, purity is our way of life
- 4, we sacrifice and share with others
- 5, we walk in love
- 6, we recognize our spiritual standing - as Jesus is so are we - and we live out of this in the world
- 7, we are free from fear of condemnation and judgment before God
- 8, we overflow with love for Him because He first loved us

Let us acknowledge and affirm this:

"I abide in the Father's love for me. I rest in and live out of the Father's love. Hate has not place in my heart. I am not alarmed if the world does not recognize me or even persecutes me. Purity is my way of life. I purify myself even as He is pure. I sacrifice, give generously and share what God has blessed me with. I walk in love towards people. I know who God has made me to be in Him because of His love. As Jesus is, so am I - an heir of God and a joint-heir with Christ. I am free from all guilt, shame and



condemnation. I am free to love my heavenly Father. I love Him because He first loved me."

Obedience, The Key To Abiding In The Father's Love

Jesus walked in obedience to the Father

John 8:29

And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."

John 14:31

But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.

John 15:9-10

9 "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.

We observe from all of these Scriptures that the Lord Jesus Himself practiced and taught that in order to abide in the Father's love we must walk in obedience to His Word and keep His Word. As we do so, the love of God, the Father's love is perfected in us. Obedience to God is important in order to rest in and live out of the Father's love.

When we abide in the Father's love, we keep His Word and walk as Jesus walked.

Obedience to the Father is us walking in the light as He is in the light and thus fellowship (intimate friendship) with Him is possible (1 John 1:6-7). It is this fellowship that enables us to abide in (rest in and live out of) His love on a day to day basis.

Obedience does not earn the Father's love. He loves us infinitely and unconditionally. Obedience enables us to abide in, draw life from and live out of the Father's love.

Obedience is what you do because you love Him. You do it out of love.

Whom The Father Loves, He Disciplines

Hebrews 12:4-11

4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "MY SON, DO NOT DESPISE THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD, NOR BE DISCOURAGED WHEN YOU ARE REBUKED BY HIM;



6 FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE CHASTENS, AND SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES."

7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

The Father corrects and disciplines us because of His love for us and for our good.

He does it to take us from where we are to a higher place, to where He would like us to be.

His correction and discipline is an expression of His love for us.

When God corrects us He does not do so to destroy, demean, devalue or demote us. His loving correction always comes to lift us up and help us be the kind of people we were meant to be. His correction comes with dignity, acceptance and in grace.

Hebrews 12:11

Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

This aspect of the Father's love may be temporarily painful.

God corrects us through His Word, through His Spirit, through other people, and sometimes through situations/circumstances.

Our response to His loving discipline will determine if we get to progress to the next level of growth, maturity and holiness. This is important to abiding in His love and progressing to the fulfilling of our life assignment.

MINISTRY TIME

SALVATION CALL



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *will be read as part of the questions below*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

#1, Why is it important to acknowledge and affirm our Heavenly Father's love for us?

#2, We mentioned eight outcomes when we abide in and live out of the Father's love for us:

1, hate towards others has no place in us

2, persecution does not alarm us

3, purity is our way of life

4, we sacrifice and share with others

5, we walk in love

6, we recognize our spiritual standing - as Jesus is so are we - and we live out of this in the world



*7, we are free from fear of condemnation and judgment before God
8, we overflow with love for Him because He first loved us*

How are you doing in each of these eight areas?

One important key to becoming stronger in each of these areas is to learn to abide in (rest in and live out of) the Father's love. So take some time to pray and affirm before God that you are able to do each of these because of the Father's love.

#3, How is walking in obedience connected to abiding in the Father's love? Discuss this.

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.