

JOHN 15:1-17

- Recap: Previously , we discussed that God want's His will done, through our asking. God trusts us to bear MUCH FRUIT because He is a God of excellence.
- This week, we'll discuss vs 8-10

vs8 "so you will be My disciples."

- God is saying, we'll be recognised like this:

JOHN 13:35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

- A characteristic of a disciple, is that they bear much fruit, the fruit of love
- If me going to church and doing courses etc. is not making me like Jesus, then what's the point?
- Am I really growing and learning to love like Jesus did?
- This love is more than just "love your neighbour as yourself" (see MARK 12:31)
- The growth of our love should look like this: love yourself, love your neighbour, then:

JOHN 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another

- It all starts by realising how much we're loved by God.

vs9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

- A constant awareness of God's love for us, will help us through difficult times, that are otherwise hard to understand. Eg. "why is this happening to me?"
- A constant awareness of God's love, will help us believe this verse:

ROMANS 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

- The primary purpose of God's call on our lives is into a love relationship, not a service contact
- vs9 "abide in my love"
- We must live (abide) with an overwhelming awareness of God's love for us, instead of being driven by the things we feel we have to do for Him

vs10 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."

- It's interesting to note that vs10, gives us the "how to" of abiding in love, by keeping Jesus' commandments. (MARK 12:30-31, JOHN 13:34)
- A strong commandment, to keep love from going cold.

MATTHEW 24:12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold

- A strong prophetic word from Jesus, so it's going to come to pass and currently is
- If you keep my commandments: Love is an action not a feeling:

JAMES 2:26(b) faith without works is dead also.

- It's possible to serve without loving but it's impossible to love without serving

CARE GROUP DISCUSSION

1. How can we, as modern day disciples of Jesus, be recognized as such?

2. When it comes to fruitfulness, what should be the most visible attribute in our lives?
3. How can we keep our love from growing cold?