

Morning Sermon November 11, 2018

“Christian Love” John 13:1 & 31-35

When we compare the beginning of this chapter to its end, we realize what it is all about - having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. (John 13:1 NKJ)

³⁴ "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35 NKJ)

Now, some would argue this commandment “love one another” was not really new – ...but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. (Leviticus 19:18 NKJ)

Even the Apostle John tells us this New Commandment, was Old – not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another. ⁶ This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. (2 John 1:5-6 NKJ)

So, it is new and old at the same time? Yes, old because included in the Old Testament! New, yes because Christ gives us the new and glorious example of HOW we are to love one another!

What we have in John 13, and beyond, are LOVE LESSONS from Jesus Christ, Himself, this is why I call it “Christian Love”

(1) Christ is the Teacher of it, Christians are followers of, learners from Christ!

...as I have loved you, that you also love one another. (John 13:34 NKJ)

(2) The Holy Spirit is the power behind it:

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love (Galatians 5:22 NKJ)

(A) The word “Christ” means Anointed One, meaning Anointed by God’s Spirit

(B) As “Christians” we are little anointed ones, - ²² Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, (1 Peter 1:22 NKJ)

Christian Love is:

I. Humble, self-sacrificing, God-glorifying and glorious –

³¹ So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him. ³² "If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately. (John 13:31-32 NKJ)

Jesus in this chapter, humbled Himself to wash His disciples’ feet, this like the Passover, pointed forward to an even greater humbling of Himself in His death on the cross –

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. (Philippians 2:8 NKJ)

1. This death on the cross is what Jesus is referring to when He says **Now** the Son of Man is glorified
 - A. Now, is the time of the Passover – John 13:1
 - B. Now, is the time Jesus is depart from this world, referring to Death, Resurrection, Ascension - John 13:1 Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father (John 13:1 NKJ)
 - C. Jesus = the Son of Man is glorified
2. At the same time God (the Father) is glorified in Him - Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him.

God was glorified by everything Jesus did, however obedience to the point of death, even the death of the cross, is a dramatic, extreme, humiliating, extremely humble thing on Christ’s part. It is the ultimate display of God’s great love for otherwise lost sinners – John 3:16-17. This great display of love and obedience glorifies God!

3. God glorifies Jesus, in Himself, immediately:

- A. After Jesus dies, He is quickly resurrected
- B. Even doubting Thomas believes and calls Jesus “Lord & God” –
²⁸ And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28 NKJ)
- C. Jesus ascension into Heaven means the sending of God’s Spirit, bringing fruit to God (salvation of many) in Jesus’ Name, Acts 2, 3, 4:12

II. Hidden by and yet glorious in the cross of Christ –

³³ "Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you. (John 13:33 NKJ)

What does this passage mean?

1. Little children – a term of endearment
2. I shall be with you a little longer – before He dies on the cross
3. You will seek Me –

Here is where the passage gets difficult –

When Jesus says you will seek me ... He does not mean they won't be able to find His dead body, it was known where He was buried.

I believe this meant they would not understand His suffering and death! This is why Peter denied Him! This is the perplexity the disciples on the road to Emmaus felt - ²¹ "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. (Luke 24:21 NKJ)

For a time, the meaning, the glory, the beauty of the cross, as God's instrument to save sinners, was hidden, even from Jesus' disciples, as it is hidden, even now, from all men who don't see God's Kingdom – Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3 NKJ)

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:14-16 NKJ)

*But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." ¹⁰ But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. (1 Corinthians 2:9-10 NKJ)*

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18 NKJ)

III. Heavenly, Holy, Higher than any other kind of love in this world, making Christ followers shine –

³⁴ "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35 NKJ)

The love Christ teaches us is:

1. Humble – washes feet – John 13
2. Self-sacrificing - and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (Revelation 1:5 NKJ)
3. Obedient and righteous - And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death, even the death of the cross. (Philippians 2:8 NKJ)*
4. Heavenly, Holy, Higher than any kind of love in this world – Therefore, as *the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do.* ¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. (Colossians 3:12-14 NKJ)*

A. This love follows Christ's example -

Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. ³ Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, (Philippians 2:1-5 NKJ)

B. This love is bold to preach Gospel truth, and it makes God's people, Christ's followers – obvious – John 13:35; Acts 4:13

¹⁰ "let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. ¹¹ "This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone." ¹² "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." ¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. (Acts 4:10-13 NKJ)

Arnold A. Brevick