

Study Notes-John 15:9-17
“The Most Difficult Lesson”
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Background: These verses are part of one of the “I AM” passages in the book of John. In using that statement Jesus is calling himself God. In this particular discourse He is comparing himself to a vine (vs. 1-8), a familiar object in his time. In verses 9-17 the metaphor is explained. This discourse takes place the night of the last supper.

John 15:9-10 NIV - "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.

- Jesus proclaims that He loves the disciples the same way that God loves Him. He then says that they must stay or abide in his love.
- The fact that the word is “loved” indicates that Jesus’ love has been completed or perfected, not that it has ended.
- The word remain always appears in command form in these verses, it is not optional for believers, but imperative
- The secret to remaining or staying is to obey Jesus’ commands, just as Jesus’ has obeyed his Father.

John 15:11 NIV - I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

- The reason for Jesus’ telling the disciples how to remain in his love is because in that love, they will find complete joy, and Jesus’ takes joy in that fact.

John 15:12 NIV - My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

- Jesus tells the disciples to follow his example and love as He has. The word love is the Greek word “agape.” This is a love that serves.

John 15:13 NIV - Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

- Jesus now gives an example of this love in perfect form; it becomes the servant to others, even unto death.
- John makes this command clear again in his epistle (see 1 John 3:16)

John 15:14 NIV - You are my friends if you do what I command.

- Jesus’ love was perfect, and He laid down his life for his friends. The sacrifice is accepted or valid only for those who Jesus will call friends

- The friends of Jesus obey his commands, this is a characteristic that they hold.
- The specific command in question is to love one another.

John 15:15 NIV - 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.

- Jesus' followers are no longer servants, because now He has told them what is going on, what is about to happen, because He has revealed things to them, that only a friend would know.

John 15:16 NIV - You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit-fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

- Jesus tells his friends, that he has chosen them or set them apart, and the task He has given them is to bear fruit, the kind of fruit that will last, this is the fruit of the Spirit which is love.
- When we do what Jesus asks, the Father will bless us by giving us whatever we ask, as long as it fits with God's purpose.

John 15:17 NIV - This is my command: Love each other.

- The command of Jesus is repeated yet again, we are to love each other.