

Abiding in Christ

Obedience out of Love

John 15:9-10

MAIN IDEAS

- What Jesus does, he does in submission to His Father
- Jesus passes the love of God the Father to us
- To love Jesus and to obey Jesus are one and the same

What does Jesus instruct us to do as his disciples and how are we commanded to do this?

Love in our culture is often reduced to sentimental feeling, but the biblical authors do not define love as a feeling. According to Scripture, define love. (1 John 3:16, 1 John 3:18, 1 John 5:3, and 1 Corinthians 13:1-8).

If Jesus loves us, why do we have to 'remain in His love'? What do you think it means to not remain in His love?

Does God love us more if we do more for him? Why or why not?

How does obeying the teachings of Jesus differ from legalism?

If God's love for us is not grounded in our obedience, why obey His teachings? (Romans 6:1-4)

PERSONAL RESPONSE

When Jesus says to "abide in my love," He doesn't only mean to rest securely in knowing He loves us (Hebrews 4:15-16); we are to actively live in the love He gives to us. That requires us to obey His teachings (John 14:15; 15:10). How does this look in the day-to-day life of a follower of Jesus?

To abide in Christ is to keep his commandments. Which of His commandments are easier

for you to obey? Why?

Which teachings do you find yourself not obeying on a consistent basis? What are the barriers?

Choose a teaching that you find difficult to obey and rely on the Holy Spirit to work on it this week.

GROUP RESPONSE

Discuss some of the ways your group can remain in Christ's love together this week. How can you practice loving each other as God the Father loved Christ?

Consider how you can hold one another up this week. Is there anyone who needs accountability? Extra prayer? An act of service?

REPRODUCE

Do you know a Christian brother or sister who struggles with obedience? Read Galatians 6:1 and Luke 18:9-14 (so that you do not fall into temptation) and then ask God for help in confronting this person with love and prayer.

KEY VERSES:

- Luke 18:9-14
- John 14:15
- John 15:9-10
- Romans 16:1-8
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-8
- Galatians 6:1
- Hebrews 4:15-16
- 1 John 3:16,18
- 1 John 5:3