

MORE THAN A FEELING

LOVE

PART 2

The Greatest Love

READ: JOHN 15:9-17

INTRODUCTION

Jesus commands us to abide in His love. This is seemingly simple in that we already have a great reason to love Jesus. When we look deeper at it though we see that love requires us to abide in Him and in His commands. We find joy in His love and we also find joy in obeying His commands (as we saw in the Joy study). But, ultimately, we see that His love for us is the greatest love there can be because of what He sacrificed for us - His life.

Verse 13 says that, "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends". Jesus has moved from just being a Savior (as if that wasn't enough) into a role of friendship. This is a powerful statement that should give us a whole new view of God's love for us. We are not deserving of His friendship or His life, and yet He gave them both to us. He chose to die for the sake of His friends and to give us an opportunity to live for eternity with Him.

There is a small stipulation to this friendship. He calls us friends when we do whatever He commands of us. That is a small sacrifice on our part when you think about the amazing gift that He is giving us in return for our obedience. He commands us to bear fruit (Galatians 5:22) and says that it is so important that we love one another. It is important that we love one another because that is proof that we have the Holy Spirit in our hearts. His love truly is the greatest love there is.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do we abide in Jesus' love? What does Scripture say about those who abide in Christ?
2. What are the best things, in your opinion, about the love of God? How can we better emulate those in our own lives?
3. Why do you think that sacrificing yourself is the greatest form of love? Do you think that He just means physically or are there other ways to sacrifice for your friends?
4. Why did Jesus choose us? Why does He call us friends? (What are the requirements to be His friend?)
5. Read Galatians 5:22. What aspect of love needs the most work in your own life? How can you cultivate that area better? What aspect are you good at?

WRAP UP

God's love is undeserved by us. We have done nothing to earn it. In fact, we have done plenty to earn His judgment and punishment. It is important that we understand that, not so we can beat ourselves up, but so that we can understand and appreciate His love for us more than ever. When we do that, we will be able to start loving those around us as Jesus loves us. Remember, they will know us by our love for one another.