

No Greater Love

John 15:12-17

This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. 13 “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. 14 “You are My friends if you do what I command you...17 “This I command you, that you love one another.

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

Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”

1. We were made for _____.

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

James Emory White suggests three realities about the church in general that reveal a need for true fellowship or community.

- **The absence of** _____

Ephesians 4:25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE *of you* WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.

- **The presence of** _____

Ephesians 4:26-27 BE ANGRY, AND *yet* DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.

- **The spirit of** _____

Romans 15:5-7 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God

2. Christian community _____ from our relationships with Jesus.

John 15:12-13 This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. 13 “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:1-5 I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. 3 “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. 5 “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

- Abide means to _____.
John 15:8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

- What is this fruit Jesus was talking about?
- Bruce Wilkinson (*Secrets of the Vine*):

- o The outer fruit of _____.
- o The inner fruit of _____.

• **We bear fruit when we _____.**

John 15:9-11 Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. 10 “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. 11 “These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full.

- Jesus says He is the Vine & His Father is the Gardener.
- If we want to bear fruit, we must submit to the will of the Gardener.

• **We bear fruit when we _____ with other believers.**

• **We bear fruit when we submit to the transforming work of**

_____.

John 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Galatians 5:22-23 is a wonderful passage that talks about the fruit of the Spirit.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control...

- 1 – Make sure you have been grafted into the Vine – Jesus.
- 2 – Make sure you are submitting to the will of the Gardener – Our Heavenly Father
- 3 – Make sure you are not satisfied with some pseudo-expression of Christianity.

Will you let this be your prayer?

“God, I want to love like you love. I surrender to You.”