

P.E.O.P.L.E.
LOVE
JOHN 15:9-13

INTRODUCTION:

1. Illustration

2. Prayer

Explanation

Optimistic

Passion

Love

3. If we are going to effectively minister to people, we must love them.

4. John 15:9-13

I. YOU ARE LOVED BY GOD

A. v.9, "As the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you."

B. The best commentary on this verse is John 13:1, "Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end."

C. He looks back on all His experiences with His disciples from when He chose them until now.

D. He puts it all together in one word, "I have loved you."

E. What kind of love was it? The same love the Father had for Jesus: peace, deep, personal, intelligent, enduring.

F. You are loved by God.

G. He proved that by:

1. Creating you.
2. Dying for you.
3. Providing you abundant life and eternal life.

H. The Last Emperor

I. You are loved by God, therefore, you can love yourself and you can love others.

II. YOU ARE TO LOVE GOD

A. v.9, "Remain in my love."

B. We are commanded to continue in an event that happened in the past. No once but continually, daily.

C. How do we love God?

1. Obey God's Word.

a. v.10, "If you keep My commands you will remain in My love."

b. Opposite is true. If I don't obey God's Word, I can't remain in Him.

c. Not salvation but fellowship.

2. Follow the example of Christ.

a. v.10, "just as I have kept My Father's commands and remain in His love."

b. His example encourages us.

c. No one took on the onslaught of Hell like Christ.

D. Why are we to love God?

1. To experience His joy.

- a. v.11, "I have spoken these things to you so that My joy may be in you."
- b. Christ wants to impart His joy to us.
- c. Satan has a false joy he's trying to impart to you; it's called "pleasure."
- d. Most people don't understand the difference.

3. To experience complete joy.

- a. v.11, "and your joy may be complete."
 - b. Our joy is partial, His joy is complete.
 - c. Our joy is temporary, His joy is eternal.
 - d. Our joy is imperfect, His joy is perfect.
 - e. Our joy is inferior, His joy is superior.
 - f. Our joy grows dimmer, His joy grows brighter.
4. To be half-hearted or double-minded is getting the worst of both worlds.

E. How do we get this joy?

1. Through faith in Jesus Christ.
2. By living according to God's will and purpose.
3. Our joy increases as we actively serve Him.

F. When we love God we experience His joy.

G. "The Christian life is not some shallow, insipid fellowship of a traditional pattern. It is a life characterized by unexhausted and inexhaustible power for fresh creation."

III. YOU ARE TO LOVE OTHERS

A. v.12, "This is My command: Love one another as I have loved you."

B. How?

1. **Serving** – under-rower, Jesus washing feet

a. Matthew 20:28, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve."

b. Galatians 5:13, "Serve one another through love."

2. **Humility**

a. Philippians 2:3, "Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves."

b. "Look what I've done." No pride or arrogance.

3. **Authentic**

a. Proverbs 27:5, "Better an open reprimand than concealed love."

b. Honest

4. Forgiving

- a. Ephesians 4:32, "And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ."

5. Sacrificing

- a. v.13, "No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life for his friends."
- b. Jesus speaks to the greatest demonstration of love.
- c. In essence He says, "You think you've seen love? You haven't seen anything yet."
- d. When they see Him sacrificing His life on the Cross, they will then see the full demonstration of His love for them and the world.
- e. Suffering and sacrificing for others is the supreme test of our love.

CONCLUSION:

If you are loved by God and love Him in return, you will experience His joy. Then, you will want to love others so they can experience His joy in their lives.

Charles Plumb – Navy jet pilot, Vietnam. Who's parachute are you packing?