

Message Notes May 5, 2024

Title: “The Recipe for Discipleship”

Text: John 15:9-17

Intro: Grandma’s Cheesecake. John 15:9-17 gives a recipe for what genuine discipleship and love for Jesus looks like.

I. The recipe for discipleship shaped or framed by abiding or communing in Christ.

- A. Framing the text in a *meno* mindset.
 - 1. Upper Room, hours from crucifixion.
 - 2. Vineyard/Grapevine-- Israel/Jesus.
 - 3. Remain--*meno*—to abide in Jesus--stay connected to the vine.
 - 4. Communion, community, communication—all shared things.
 - 5. Jesus is communing with us to share with us His kingdom.
- B. “The wandering sheep” lifestyle vs. an abiding lifestyle.
 - 1. Wandering interrupts/interferes with communion/abiding.
 - 2. Wandering is opposite of abide which remains through thick and thin.
 - 3. Abide in godly places or unhealthy ones.
 - 4. Illustration of PW’s nephew.
 - 5. Wandering—Vacation cabin mindset.
 - 6. Restless nature.
 - 7. Abiding is to find a home in Jesus and to stick with it, accepting responsibility that comes with making a home in Jesus.
 - 8. Abiding retains the eternal picture.
 - 9. The goal of abiding is to be one as the Father is one with the Son. John 17.

II. The recipe of discipleship develops in love.

- A. Love is expressed by a true disciple by obedience to the commandments of the Lord.
 - 1. Agape love (1 Corinthians 13).

- 2. All love is not love.
- 3. Love can focus on the wrong object.
- 4. Spotted when it produces the sinful fruit.
- 5. 1 Timothy 6:10
- 6. May focus on the wrong person.
- 7. Conditional love
- B. Love in Christ is defined in Jesus’ commands.
 - 1. Sometimes the most loving thing I can say to my grandson is “No, no.”
 - 2. Love doesn’t simply say everything is ok without limits.
 - 3. Romans 1 mistaking lust for love--calls lust “shameful.”
 - 4. 1 John 2:15—Don’t love the world.
 - 5. Agape love is a love who’s object is Jesus and not the world.
- C. Sin causes trouble distinguishing God’s commands from our own desires.
 - 1. “If you keep my commands...”
 - 2. We do not like the word, “No.”
 - 3. Pride for example loves the sound of its own voice and prefers its own story.
 - 4. גָּאֹן (*gā’ôn*, “height”)--pejoratively to pride, ([Isa 11:13](#)), but in some cases it refers to God’s “majesty” (e.g., [Exod 15:7](#); [Job 37:4](#); [Isa 2:19](#)).
 - 5. Satan tempts Eve “to be like God”—pride, exalting oneself over God’s majesty.
 - 6. Broken communion—no longer abiding in the Garden with God.
 - 7. Desirable for gaining wisdom, pleasing to the senses—suddenly “ok.”
 - 8. Out of the heart come the evil things.
 - 9. To keep God’s commands is to defend our communion with God.
 - 10. That starts in the same place that love is generated—from the heart.
- D. The Love of Jesus is not just love but a love defined by obedience and communion with the Father.

1. Obedience must remain attached to love to commune.
 2. Love is the mortar while the bricks are the various forms of obedience.
 3. The love of God builds nothing if not attached to obedience.
 4. “In me you will bear much fruit.”
- E. The greatest example in obedience in love is Jesus Himself laying down His life for His friends.
1. Being like Jesus means laying down our lives.
 2. Laying down pride, desires, and anything else that would be in the way of being a friend to Jesus.
 3. Philippians 2--Jesus was obedient unto death.
 4. The goal of Jesus’ commands is a communion with Himself as well as fellow disciples.
 5. Deeper communion is something worth pursuing.

III. The right recipe is inspired by the One we love.

- A. The freedom to make the best cheesecake.
1. Many recipes—38 from Cheesecake Factory.
 2. Imagine a contest--The goal is to make a cheesecake.
 3. The favorite will be the recipe you actually follow.
 4. The greatest influence for a cheesecake recipe is one who inspired us to make it.
- B. A similar thought applies to the recipe of discipleship.
1. The kind of disciple is not simply a matter of taste but of the inspiration of the person from which we get the recipe.
 2. Jesus’ recipe...Savior.
 3. Friends instead of servants.
 4. Family abiding with the Father.
 5. We know the Father’s business/recipe.
 6. The distinction of Friend and Servant.

7. Example of a devoted spouse rather than a grocery store worker.
- C. Jesus calls us friends.
1. Exodus 33:11—Moses met God face to face as to a friend.
 2. Invested in God’s plans.
 3. Moses exercised his authority in a way that fit his personality and characteristics.
 4. Not Robots but Friends invested in the things that matter to Jesus.
 5. Friendship is trust in the Lord.
 6. Will not disappoint—we too will see our Lord face to face.

Conclusion: The results of Jesus’ recipe of discipleship are fulfilled in Easter. The grave fades away as our communion with Jesus grows. Our joy is made complete, meaning the grave has lost its hold on us even when we mourn. Abiding with Jesus ultimately means abiding with Jesus in His eternal kingdom. This is one sweet recipe worthy of following.

Taking it Home:

1. What parts of God’s Word challenge you most? What parts of God’s Word bring you the most joy in following Jesus?
2. Who in your life has God blessed you with that offers the most inspiring example of following Jesus? Name some characteristics that you admire most.
3. Have you ever sensed that the Lord has told you “no” on something important when you wanted to do it anyway? What helped you to listen to the will of the Father in that moment to do what was godly?
4. What kinds of things do you do to distinguish God’s will from your desire?

Consider Reading Jonah 1-4