

February 29, 2020

Revealing Love

John 14:21, “Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

At the beginning of John 14, Jesus had just revealed to His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them. I’m sure they were, just like any of us would be, worried about the future. They had become dependent upon His presence and His teaching; and that’s not a bad thing at all. The trouble was they didn’t know how they were going to make it without Him. He tells them they won’t have to because He will send His Spirit to live within them. And then He says that they are to keep His commands. Now this might at first seem legalistic or religious, but what it is, is really love. He didn’t say, “If you love Me, you will have to do what I have commanded,” but instead He was saying, “If you love me, you will want to do what I have commanded.” Do you see the difference? It is the difference between religion and relationship. Christianity is not a religion, it is a relationship with God Himself. When you do things because you want to instead of because you have to, then you understand that the driving motivation for that is love.

When you think of the love that God has for you, you recognize that it can’t be earned or deserved. You receive the love of the Father because that is all He has for you. 1 John 4:19, “We love because He first loved us.” And because of His great love, then everything else flows from that love. When we obey His commands, we are literally saying to Him, “Thank You Father for loving me completely and I am blessed to follow Your commands because I know You have my best interest in mind. I know You love me so much that You have set boundaries for me; boundaries that protect me and show me how much You care.”

So what really reveals our love for God? It is obedience. In John 15:10-11 Jesus told them, “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. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.”

Dear Father, I want to obey You always. Not because I have to, but because I want to. You have such a great love for me that You desire for me to keep Your commands. They will keep me safe and protected. I desire that Father. I desire You above all else. In Jesus Name, Amen