

June 11, 2017
John 15:12-13

NO GREATER LOVE

I. Introduction: No Greater Love

Love A Recurring Biblical Theme:

"Greater Love has no one than this, than that he lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13

"I have given you an example that you should do as I do." John 13:15

³⁷ Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matthew 22:37-39

"A new commandment I give unto you, That you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another." John 13:34

12 "This is my commandment, That you love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:12-13

II. The Love of God _____ At The _____

"The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. . . Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength." I Corinthians 1:18; 22-25

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

III. The Love Of Christ Demonstrated

A. Giving Your Life For Someone Is The Greatest _____ Possible:

"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. . . In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple." -- Luke 14:25-27, 33

B. Jesus Gave His Life For His _____

"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." -- Romans 5:6-8

"Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation" -- Colossians 1:21-22

"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. . . . If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even `sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even `sinners' do that. . . . But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked." -- Luke 6:27-35

C. Jesus Death On The Cross Was Completely _____

"The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life--only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." John 10:17-18

POINTS TO PONDER
Week Of June 11th
John 15:1-17

Open It

1. What are the marks of a true friendship?
2. *What do you do to maintain your friendships?

Explore It

3. How are Jesus and the Father related? (15:1)
4. What is Jesus and who is the Father? (15:1)
5. How does the gardener tend to the branches that bear fruit and the branches that do not? (15:2)
6. What did Jesus say the branches must do in order to bear fruit? (15:4)
7. Who are the branches? (15:5)
8. What did Jesus say would happen to the branches that did not remain in Him? (15:6)
9. What privilege was given to the branches that remained in the vine? (15:7)
10. What would be demonstrated by the disciples' bearing much fruit? (15:8)
11. *What did Jesus urge His disciples to do? (15:9)
12. How were Jesus' disciples to remain in His love? (15:10)
13. Why did Jesus talk with His disciples about vines and branches? (15:11)
14. What command did Jesus give His disciples? (15:12)

15. *What is the greatest manifestation of love? (15:13)
16. Who did Jesus say were His friends? (15:14)
17. *Why did Jesus call His disciples friends? (15:15)
18. Why did Jesus choose His disciples? (15:16)
19. What was Jesus' command? (15:17)

Get It

20. How are we to remain in Jesus? Why?
21. What does it mean to bear fruit as a Christian?
22. How are we to bear fruit?
23. *When is it difficult to develop and maintain a personal relationship with Jesus?
24. In what way has God been removing "dead" or useless pieces from your character?
25. In what way is your joy complete?
26. When do you struggle with loving others the way Jesus has loved you?
27. *What kind of friend are you to Jesus?
28. Why is it hard to be Jesus' friend?

Apply It

29. What steps can you take to develop a more intimate relationship with Christ?
30. *How can you be a better friend to Jesus beginning today?