

052018...picking up on I am the vine part 2

**Jesus had just shared his last meal with the disciples and spent time preparing them for his departure...and their work after he leaves...**

*John 13:33 "My children, I will be with you only a little longer.*

*John 14:28 "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. 29 I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.*

- **Believing Jesus appears to be progressive...for there is always more to know and learn...but it is good..he is being pruned...for that will produce more fruit..**

*John 14:12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.*

- **If they were to carry on the work of the Lord, then *they needed to have the power to accomplish what Jesus did..***

*John 14:<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—<sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives (present tense) with you and will be in you (future tense).*

**hours later as they leave the upper room...He tells them how this work of God will be accomplished... using the example of a plant...**

*15:1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.*

- **The symbolism of the Vine and branches is similar to that of the Head and the body: we have a living relationship to Christ and belong to Him.**
- **The image of the vine, and the closely associated term *vineyard*, were commonly used throughout the Mediterranean world.... And is frequently used in the Old Testament and in Judaism to symbolize Israel as the vine and vineyard of the Lord...only to go wild ..every time it is used in the old testament as a symbol of Israel ..it is in judgment**
- **When Jesus refers to himself as the *true vine*,he is taking the image for Israel and**

applying it to himself. **Jesus himself is true Israel..not a people group but a person!**

- **He's saying: "The type of fruitfulness that pleases the Lord that you have been unable to walk out I will now make possible for you."**

*Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control.*

- **the Gardner our Father knows how to get the best out of his vineyard... he knows whne and what to prune... in order to produce more fruit..**
- **He knows what to cut off that will never produce fruit.....for example...pride produces no fruit and is a flesh produced thing...he will cut off the flesh to drive us to the spirit...**

*Now Remember he is speaking to those who already belong to him..but they must be continually fed by him to bear the fruit the Father is going after...*

*John 15:3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*

- **thee problem is not him remaining in us...but us remaining in him...**
- **You cannot bear the fruit of my disciples without remaining in me...I am the source of your strength...just like the trunk of the tree sustains the branches...**

*6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.*

- **if you do not remain in me... and whatever other source you have attached too...will prove unable to sustain you...and is of no value in producing the fruit of the Spirit**
- **and must be destroyed..only good for fire...**
- **example...God had told Peter to accept believing non Jews as equal brothers...and he took criticism for it**

*Acts 11:1 The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him <sup>3</sup> and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them." <sup>4</sup> Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: <sup>5</sup> "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. <sup>6</sup> I looked into it*

and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. <sup>7</sup> Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.'

<sup>8</sup> "I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

<sup>9</sup> "The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' <sup>10</sup> This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

- Notice the word clean...same word Jesus used to describe the disciples at the last supper...
- Not long after...Peter had to be cut down as he removed himself from remaining what Christ gave him as a command... ..and placed himself in the vine of some Judiazers who gave him a different command... which produced Prejudice and Hypocrisy...
- He still belonged to Jesus...but was cut back..

*Gal 2:11* When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. (judged as guilty) <sup>12</sup> For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. <sup>13</sup> The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

**So Remain in Jesus...His words remain in you no matter what...**

*John 15:7* If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

- If you remain in me..your will aligns with mine ...and you will beging to desire and want what I want...and it will be granted to you...
- Well what will that look like....the branch must remain attached to the vine to produce fruit ...and the fruit is what we give to others...
- **being a branch is for our benefit...producing fruit is for others benefit and used to draw them to the vine!**

**and this is what Our Father wants...**

*John 15:8* This is to my Father's glory (that he is advertised), that you bear much fruit, **showing** yourselves (it is visible) to be my disciples.

*But there is more...to this relationship then a follower...a disciple*

**John 15:9** "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. ....

**stop here a minute...there is possibly no greater statement in all of Scripture than this...that Jesus loves us with the same passion that the Father loves him!**

**This Greek word for love *storge*, which is the love and affection that occurs between parents and children, family love...With an emphasis on parental love...**

- **It is love driven by blood.... *storge*, describes "emotional" love, love that comes**
  - **from the heart.... it is FELT love....it is loving from the heart...**
  - ***Storge* is God's affectionate parental love toward his children... and is motherly in the sense that this love holds no favored children and loves them all deeply from the heart...**

***hen he goes on to say.... John 15:9.....Now remain in my love.***

- This is **what remaining in my love means**...no matter what stay connect to him knowing his love for you !!

***Now count on and live in that love... and act like your loved...and in all things count on the love of Jesus for you above everything else...***

*listen..as this same John would write years later...*

**1 John 4:16** And so **we know** and **rely on** the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

Paul writes us this...

***Eph 3:17*** And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,<sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to **grasp** how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, **(this encompasses the dimensions of creation)**

<sup>19</sup> and **to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (he loves you as much as the whole of his creative work)**

- Paul tells us that God's fullness of love toward his children..."( whom he calls God's holy people) ... is all encompassing and that we should grasp this.....
- **that it is wide and long and high (space) and deep (time) ...which covers the four dimensions of our existence on earth.....**and this love roots us..is our foundation... and that this love surpasses Knowledge...(an understanding of the mind) that this love encompasses more than that... which will bring it to fullness in our lives...

**Because I am loved as family...I can love others appropriately and unconditionally...Now practice agape love...**

*John 15:10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.*

- they are to remain united to God in love by loving one another with Sorrow love...family love...
- and Agape love...loving by a choice of the will
- Just as Jesus loves them...
- whatever you ask to help accomplish this...Love one another ...he will give you!
- then he adds another depth of love...Friendship...how many know that family members are not always friends?
- **He adds to his relationship another layer...from family, to disciple to friendship...**

**John 15:13** Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command. **15** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

- A very common word for love during the apostolic age was **philia/phileo**. It is the **word of genuine affection – Friend love**. It is seen in the name, Philadelphia (brotherly love).
- **We are loved by Jesus as dear Friends... a servant is one who serves out of duty servants are not privy to their master's personal life ...a friend is a relationship out of choice and is one of fellowship and closeness .. they know each other personally...they trust one another...they believe in one another...they love one another...enjoy each others company...know each others businesses...got each others back...defend one another...lay down their lives for one another**
- Jesus had this kind of love friendship for his disciples and then they are to partner as friends in carrying out the command to love one another!

**And then he goes on to tell them...** *John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 **This is my command: Love each other.***

- He chose them to be family, his friends..his disciples... his intimates .. and he appointed them to be like him.. to chose and others to love...like as family, friends and make them disciples to be loved and love...others
- Whatever you ask to help accomplish this... ..he will give you!

**Now you know what that love is...Receive it...depend on it...Share it! and produce much...and whatever hinders this he will cut off and whatever is producing this he will prune to produce more!**

**end**

**That will be accomplished after the Resurrection that Sunday evening**

*John 20:19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"<sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."<sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.*

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- What does more than knowledge mean??? it is experiential...
- Well to understand the fullness of the love of God we have to understand the word love...in English we have one spelling of the word for love
- ...but the meaning varies... I love pizza...I love you brother...I love my wife...I love my children...all the same love, but have different meanings...I love pizza and I love my wife do not mean the same kind of love...
- However in Greek the language the New Testament was written in ...love has four different words representing different aspects of love.
  1. **Eros** generally had to do with Romantic love. From this term derives the English “erotic.” This word, however, is not found in the New Testament.
- A very common word for love during the apostolic age was **philia/phileo**. It is the word of genuine affection – Friend love. It is seen in the name, Philadelphia (brotherly love).
- Jesus had this kind of love for disciples

one aspect is that love is of a close friend...

**15** *I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.*

- He changes his relationship from disciples here to friends...because friends are closer than a servant...servants are not privy to their master's business...but true friends know each other's business..
- We are loved by Jesus as dear Friends... a servant is one who serves out of duty...a friend is a relationship out of choice and is one of fellowship and closeness .. they know each other personally...they trust one another...they believe in one another...they love one another

\*\*\*\*Another part of the fullness of God's love toward us we are loved with Agape Love... **Agape love** more of a decision it chooses to love and to love the undeserving.

1. **Agape** love gives and loves because it wants to; it does not demand or expect repayment from the love given. It gives because it loves, it does not love in order to receive
- The word has much to do with self-denial for the sake of another.
  - It is a love that loves without changing.

- **It is a love that gives without demanding or expecting re-payment.**
- **It is love so great that it can be given to the unlovable or unappealing.**
- **It is love that loves even when it is rejected.**

Agape has to do with the mind: it is a principle by which one deliberately lives” (New Testament Words, p. 21).

### Agape Love is exemplified and summed up in 1 Cor 13

*1 Corinthians 13: 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.*

*13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

- **agape love is greater than all for it continues beyond all things...even faith and hope...**
- **This is God's word to you...it is part of the fullness the Triune God toward us and what we are to give to others**
- **John speaks of this...**

**John 15:10** If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. **11** I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **12** My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command.

- whatever you ask to help accomplish this...Love one another ...he will give you!  
and then they are to partner as friends in carrying out the command to love one another!

**\*\*\*\*but there is more.... about the fullness of God's love toward us ...surpasses It is The fourth Greek word for love storge, which is the love and affection that occurs between parents and children, family love...With an emphasis on parental love...**

- **It is love driven by blood. storge, describes "emotional" love, love that comes**
- **from the heart.... it is FELT love....it is loving from the heart...**
- **Storge is God's affectionate parental love toward his children... and is motherly**



**in the sense that this love holds no favored children and loves them all deeply from the heart...**

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Another is he chose us and appointed us...He chose us to be his friends..intimates ..family..and he appointed us to be like him..to love...

*John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.* <sup>17</sup> ***This is my command: Love each other.***

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- **Well to understand the fullness of the love of God we have to understand the word love...in English we have one spelling of the word for love**
- ...but the meaning varies... I love pizza...I love you brother...I love my wife...I love my children...all the same love, but have different meanings...I love pizza and I love my wife do not mean the same kind of love...
- However in Greek the language the New Testament was written in ...love has four different words representing different aspects of love.
  2. **Eros** generally had to do with **Romantic love**. From this term derives the English “erotic.” This word, however, is not found in the New Testament.
  3. A very common word for love during the apostolic age was **philia/phileo**. **It is the word of genuine affection – Friend love**. It is seen in the name, Philadelphia (brotherly love). Jesus had this kind of love for his closest disciple, John

*John 20:2 So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus **loved**...*

- And Lazarus (John 11:3).

*John 11: 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you **love** is sick.”*

- **also the love of close friend...**

***John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends.....***

- **We are loved by Jesus as dear Friends...** a servant is one who serves out of duty...a friend is a relationship out of choice and is one of fellowship and closeness .. ...it is part of the fullness of God's love toward us...

4. Then the word **agape**. **Agape** describes a different kind of love. It is a love more of **decision** it chooses to love the undeserving. **Agape** really doesn't have much to do with **feelings** - it has to do with **decisions**.

it is the way God loves the world...in general...by world he means people...saved and unsaved...

*John 3:16* 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

- **Agape love gives and loves because it wants to;** it does not demand or expect repayment from the love given. It gives because it loves, it does not love in order to receive
- **The word has little to do with emotion; it has much to do with self-denial for the sake of another.**
- **It is a love that loves without changing.**
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- **It is love so great that it can be given to the unlovable or unappealing.**
- **It is love that loves even when it is rejected.**

*Agape* has to do with the mind: it is not simply an emotion which rises unbidden in our hearts; it is a principle by which one deliberately lives” (New Testament Words, p. 21).

**Marriage is the highest compliment and form of agape love you can give to another person ...it is a love based on your word to love the other period!!! ....**

**The exchange of vows at a wedding, is your word to love...by a choice of the will...when we say I do and I will...**

**I do love you in a commitment, as I will not love anyone else...my word to agape you**

**Agape Love is exemplified and summed up in 1 Cor 13**

*1 Corinthians 13* If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

- **agape love is greater than all for it continues beyond all thing...even faith and hope...**
- **This is God's word to you...it is part of the fullness the Triune God toward us!!**

**\*\*\*\*but there is more....Remember when we started today Paul writes that he wants us to understand the fullness of Gods love for us...**

*"To know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." Ephesians 3:19.*

- **Paul tells us that God's fullness of love toward us ...surpasses Philo...Dear Friend love... and Unconditional choice of the will to love us...**

**\*\*\*\*The fourth Greek word we need to understand is storge, which is the love and affection that occurs between parents and children, family love...With an emphasis on Motherly love...**

- **It is love driven by blood. storge, describes "emotional" love, love that comes**
  - **from the heart.... it is FELT love....it is loving from the heart...**
  - **Storge is God's affectionate parental love toward his children... and is motherly in the sense that this love holds no favored children and loves them all deeply from the heart...**

*Rom 5:5 indicates that the love of God is poured into our hearts.*

- **love from God poured into the seat of our emotions and feelings the heart**
- **Exemplified in Romans 12:10 ...**

**Romans 12:10** **10** Be devoted ( dedicated... from the heart with feeling) to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves..

- *honor is feeling based... I care so much about you I want to bless you! and I want you to know it and feel it!!!*

Truly No greater compliment can be paid to motherhood than God comparing His great love for us with the tender, compassionate love of a godly mother toward her children. a Mother's emotional, affectionate love toward their child...I will provide the best I have... then adds friendship!

**10** *If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. **11** I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **12** My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command. **15** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup> **This is my command: Love each other.***

- He changes his relationship from disciples here to friends...because friends are closer than a follower...they know each other personally...they trust one another...they believe in one another...they love one another
- whatever you ask to help accomplish this...Love one another ...he will give you!  
ans then they are to partner as friends in carrying out the command to love one another!

*Isa 66:12* For this is what the LORD says: "I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream; you will nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled(bounced) on her knees. <sup>13</sup> As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem."

- **It is like the mother who had twelve children was asked which one she loved the best. Her answer: "The one who's sick until he gets well; and the one who is away until he gets back home**

- **Mothers – and anyone else here that needs this reality – “God does understand your problem and He will comfort as a mother comforts**

end?

**Therefore: You can**

[1 Peter 5:7](#) *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

- **It has been said: "A father becomes concerned when his child breaks a bone....a mother when her child skins a knee!"**

**God's care is described as a mother eagle**

[Deuteronomy 32:11-12](#) *Like an eagle that rouses her chicks and hovers over her young, so he spread his wings to take them up and carried them safely on his pinions.*

- **Jesus compares himself to a mother hen who longs to gather her chicks together under her wings (Matt. 23:37).**

*Matt 23: 37 “... how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings....*

**Motherhood is what God has designed for every person to be nurtured by, even orphans, even runaways and even those women who aren't mothers themselves.**

[Isaiah 49:15](#) **God compared to a nurturing mother**

<sup>15</sup> *“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! <sup>16</sup> See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands...*

- Though it is possible for a mother to reject here child...This is God's word and his assurance and promise...he will not look at us this way...as ruined or unacceptable...we

ae sons and daughters...we are given a sign and seal..your name is tattooed on his palm...this is a highly personal sign...

## **And God's protection is described as a mother bear..The Mama Bear heart of God**

*Hosea 13:<sup>8</sup> Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them and rip them open; like a lion I will devour them—a wild animal will tear them apart.*

**This is how Jesus devoured sin and death...he destroyed it power to destroy us at the cross...he nailed there!!!**

*Col 2:13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you[a] alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, **14** having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nauling it to the cross.<sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

- **God promised to be like a mother to us. We do grow weary in this life.**
- **In a day when there is too little love, To those who feel helpless, rejected and despised, we need to pray for new hope, a new realization of what kind of God we have.**
- **We need to thank God for revealing his nature through the love of mothers and give us eyes to see and hearts to respond.**
- **We need to claim God's promise to be a "Mother" to us.**

**God exercise all three kinds of love. We need *agape* love, his willful unconditional actions on our behalf...Phileo love his love to each one of us as friends...and Storge love...parental Fatherly Motherly affectionate, intimate, caring love...**

**So when Paul says this...**

*Eph 3:17 And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,<sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to **grasp** how wide and long and high and deep is*

*the love of Christ,<sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

**Now you know what that love is...Receive it...depend on it...Share it!**

[1 John 4:16](#) *And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love.*

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