

Exegetical Notes, John 15:9-17 “Joy!”

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John 15:9-17

Verses 9-10

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 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.

- As the Father has loved Jesus, so Jesus loves his disciples.
- We are to remain/abide/live in Jesus’ love. We do that by keeping Jesus’ commandments just as he has kept the Father’s commandments.

Verse 11

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

- Living according to Jesus’ teaching is the source of joy. It brings Jesus joy to see us following his teachings because those teachings are given for our good. It completes our joy because we are in the will of the Father.

Verses 12-17

“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. 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.”

- Jesus commands that we love each other.
- He defines the love with which we are to love each other as like that love with which he loves us. We should be willing to lay down our lives for each other just as he laid down his life for us.

- Jesus declares that his disciples are his friends not merely his servants. The distinction is found in the disclosure which Jesus makes to his disciples. They share knowledge of his business. He has told them everything that the Father has told him. There are no secrets between Jesus and his disciples.
- Jesus reminds us that this invitation to friendship/discipleship is not something we choose. He has invited us into this relationship with him.
- He intends for our lives to be fruitful in him.
- He promises that everything we ask that is in keeping with his commands will be granted to us.
- Jesus commands us to love each other.

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