

<p><b>1. He has loved believers</b></p> <p><b>2. He has one great charge for believers: Continue—abide in His love</b></p> <p>a. Abiding is conditional: If you obey</p> <p>b. Abiding has a standard: The obedience of Jesus</p> <p><b>3. He has one great purpose for believers: The completion of their joy<sup>DS1</sup></b></p>	<p><b>J. The Relationship of Jesus to Believers, 15:9-11</b></p> <p>9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.</p> <p>10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.</p> <p>11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and <i>that</i> your joy might be full.</p>
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### DIVISION XIII

#### THE REVELATION OF JESUS, THE GREAT MINISTER, AND HIS LEGACY, 13:1–16:33

##### J. The Relationship of Jesus to Believers, 15:9-11

(15:9-11) **Introduction:** Jesus has a very special relationship with believers, a relationship that delivers them from an existence that is barren, empty, lonely, unmeaningful, and sad.

1. He has loved believers (v.9).
2. He has one great charge for believers: continue—abide in His love (vv.9-10).
3. He has one great purpose for believers: the completion of their joy (v.11).

**1** (15:9) **Jesus Christ, Love of—God, Love for Christ:** Christ has loved believers. He has loved us with a very special love, the very same love with which God has loved Him. Two profound points are being discussed here.

- ⇒ The Father's love for His Son, Jesus Christ.
- ⇒ Christ's love for believers.

a. There are three significant reasons why the Father loves Christ.

- 1) Christ is His Son, His *only* Son. God loves Christ because of a *natural love*. God naturally loves His Son just as most fathers naturally love their children.

**“He [God] hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Ep.1:6-7).**

**“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (Jn.3:16).**

**“[God] who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son” (Col.1:13).**

**“So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee” (He.5:5).**

- 2) God loves Christ with an *obedient* love. God is perfect, which means He is perfect love. Therefore, being perfect love, God is bound to love His Son. But this means much more than an ordinary love. Christ Himself is Perfect—the Perfect Son of God. Therefore, God loves Christ with a very special love. Imagine how much a parent would love a perfect child, a child who was always obedient: never being disrespectful, rebellious, haughty, selfish; and never causing hurt, pain, or doubt. Most parents love their children, but it is in special moments of obedience and caring that love swells up in the hearts of parents for their children. God's love for Christ is a perfect love, but it is a very special love based on the perfect obedience of Christ.

**“But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence” (Jn.14:31).**

**“If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love” (Jn.15:10).**

**“Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God” (He.10:7).**

- 3) God loves Christ with a *supreme* love. Christ paid the *supreme* price of obedience. He died and sacrificed Himself in obedience to God's will. Therefore, God's love for His Son is very, very special in that it is a supreme love. (See notes—Jn.10:17-18; 12:27-30 for discussion.)

**“Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life....This commandment have I received of my Father” (Jn.10:17-18).**

## JOHN 15:9-11

**“But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence” (Jn.14:31).**

**“Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour” (Ep.5:2).**

b. Christ said that He loves believers with the same *kind* of love, the very *same* love that God has for Him.

1) Christ loves us with a natural love.

⇒ Christ loves us because we are God’s children.

**“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father” (Ga.4:4-6).**

**“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together” (Ro.8:15-17).**

**“And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God” (Ro.9:26).**

**“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (1 Jn.3:1-2).**

⇒ Christ loves us because we are brothers of His.

**“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the first-born among many brethren” (Ro.8:29).**

**“For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother” (Mt.12:50).**

**“For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren” (He.2:11).**

⇒ Christ loves us because we are the household and family of God.

**“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God” (Ep.2:19).**

**“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty” (2 Co.6:17-18).**

2) Christ loves us with an obedient love.

⇒ He loves us because we believe God.

**“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life” (Jn.5:24).**

⇒ He loves us because we diligently seek God.

**“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (He.11:6).**

⇒ He loves us because we obey His commandments.

**“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him” (Jn.14:21).**

**“If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love....Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you” (Jn.15:10, 14).**

3) Christ loves us with a supreme love. He loves us because we pay the *supreme* price of obedience: we deny self, take up our cross, and die daily in order to follow Him (see DEEPER STUDY # 1—Lu.9:23 for discussion).

**“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me” (Lu.9:23).**

**“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (1 Jn.3:16).**

## JOHN 15:9-11

**2** (15:9-10) **Jesus Christ, Love of—Believers, Duty:** Christ has one great charge for believers—to continue or to abide in His love.

- a. “Continuing” or “abiding” is conditional. A believer can...
- break fellowship with Christ
  - cease to keep his thoughts upon Christ
  - walk out of the love of Christ
  - get away from the love of Christ
  - turn back to the world and to his old worldly friends (see 2 Co.6:17-18)
  - give himself back over to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 Jn.2:15-16)

Jesus said that it is up to the believer to continue in His love. How? By doing what any person does when he wants someone to love him. The person draws near to the person he loves: he does good and tries to please the person. So it is with the believer. The believer continues in the love of Christ by drawing near and doing good and seeking to please Him—very simply by obeying His commandments. (See Jn.14:21; 15:10, 14.)

Now note a critical point. Christ always loves; His love is *always* there. But it is up to *man* to walk *in* that love. A man can never know and experience the Lord’s love unless he walks *in* it.

**“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him” (Jn.14:21).**

**“If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love....Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you” (Jn.15:10, 14).**

**“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him” (Col.2:6).**

**“He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked” (1 Jn.2:6).**

b. “Abiding” in the love of Christ has a standard, a supreme example: it is Christ Himself. He was perfectly obedient to God; therefore, He continued in the Father’s love. We are to look at His obedience as our prime example. (Again, see note—Jn.10:17-18.)

Note another critical point. A believer must do something if He is going to follow Jesus’ example and keep Jesus’ commandments. The believer must study and learn and abide in the Word of God, in the commandments and life of Christ. A person cannot keep a commandment unless he knows the commandment.

**“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing” (Jn.15:4-5).**

**“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Ac.17:11).**

**“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Ti.2:15).**

**“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious” (1 Pe.2:2-3).**

**“And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming” (1 Jn.2:28).**

**“Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him” (1 Jn.3:6).**

**“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son” (2 Jn.9).**

**3** (15:11) **Joy—Believers, Purpose:** Christ has one great purpose for believers—the completion of their joy. Note three points.

a. The joy of Christ: “My joy.” His joy and glory was doing the will of God and looking ahead to the joy and glory of eternity with His Father and His followers. (See notes—Jn.12:23-26; 14:28-29.)

**“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (He.12:2).**

b. The joy of believers is the joy of Christ Himself reigning within their hearts. (See DEEPER STUDY # 1, *Joy*—Jn.15:11.)

**“By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God” (Ro.5:2).**

**“Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory” (1 Pe.1:8).**

c. The joy of believers is fulfilled as believers study His Word, the promises and commandments which He made. (See notes—Jn.14:28-29; DEEPER STUDY # 1—15:11 for discussion.)

**“These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full” (Jn.15:11).**

## JOHN 15:9-11

**“And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves” (Jn.17:13).**

**“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious” (1 Pe.2:2-3).**

**“Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts” (Je.15:16).**

### DEEPER STUDY # 1

(15:11) **Joy** (chara): an inner gladness; a deep-seated pleasure. It is a depth of assurance and confidence that ignites a cheerful heart. It is a cheerful heart that leads to cheerful behavior.

Several things need to be said about the believer's joy.

1. Joy is divine. It is possessed and given only by God. Its roots are not in earthly or material things or cheap triumphs. It is the joy of the Holy Spirit, a joy based in the Lord. It is His very own joy (Jn.15:11; Ac.13:52; Ro.14:17; Ga.5:22; 1 Th.1:6).

2. Joy does not depend on circumstances or happiness. Happiness depends upon happenings, but the joy that God implants in the believer's heart overrides all, even the most troublesome matters of life and death (Ps.5:11; 2 Co.6:10; 7:4).

3. Joy springs from faith (Ro.15:13; Ph.1:25; 2 Ti.1:4; see Mt.2:10).

4. Joy of future reward makes and keeps one faithful (Mt.25:21, 23; Ac.20:24; He.12:2).

The source of the believer's joy is severalfold.

1. The fellowship of the Father and His Son brings joy (1 Jn.1:3-4; Ps.16:11).

2. Victory over sin, death, and hell brings joy (Jn.14:28; 16:20-22; Is.12:3; 61:10).

3. Repentance brings joy (Lu.15:7, 10).

4. The hope of glory brings joy (Ro.14:17; He.12:2; 1 Pe.4:13).

5. The Lord's Word, the revelations, commandments, and promises which He made bring joy (Jn.15:11).

6. The commandments of Christ and the will of God bring joy. Obeying and doing a good job stirs joy within the believer's heart (Jn.15:11, 32; 17:13; Ac.13:52; Je.15:16).

7. Prayer brings joy (Jn.16:24).

8. The presence and fellowship of believers bring joy (1 Jn.1:3-4).

9. Converts bring joy (Lu.15:5; Ph.4:1; 1 Th.2:19-20; Ps.126:5).

10. Hearing that others walk in the truth brings joy (3 Jn.1:4).

11. Giving brings joy (2 Co.8:2; He.10:34).