



SERMON - MESSAGE – MAY 08, 2022

Title: “Not Only A Mother’s Love!”

Scriptures: John 15:1-14, 17 - Mother’s Day

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“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^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. 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.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 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. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹ “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. 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. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

What is a mother’s love? A mother’s love is defined as: *a protective and possessive affection which a mother will typically display towards their child throughout their life.* So, the question could be asked: does this type of love apply to individuals other than mothers? The simple answer is: of course, it does because the display of love can be defined as

an intense feeling of deep affection for any another person. However, I quickly add that there is an innate love that is born only within a mother. This motherly love was carried forth from God's creation of the first woman Eve who displayed this innate motherly feeling for her seven children, who are the most recognized three sons, Cain, Able and Seth. Then, for the Christian, we need to honor the mother of Jesus Christ. Her name is Mary or in Hebrew Mariam. She gave birth to "Yeshua", the Son of God, the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings, the Messiah. Mary had that deep motherly innate love for her son Jesus Christ that I believe is unmatched by any other mother because the Spirit of Almighty God was in her very being.

Now, I want to go one step farther to also examine the Holy Spirit love that Christ demonstrated throughout his entire life. Christ's love was and is of the Holy Spirit and also innate...incidentally, innate means: inborn, natural. I think you will agree with me that Jesus was born with this same inborn, natural love that all mothers also have.

Each year the world sets aside a day when we honor mothers. Especially mothers that are caring and concerned about the welfare of the children they bring into this world. Most loving and concerned mothers have that innate/innate/natural sense of providing direction, concern and caring for their children. Remember, Christ considered every individual as his own child. I John 5:1 says this: *“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves his child as well”*. With those spoken words of Christ, we set aside a day, like today...Mother's day, when we concentrate on love, guidance and growth not only for children but others as well. In today's new testament discourse we find Jesus sitting with his disciples at their last supper meal. He was sharing the good news of life but also knew in his heart was his impending torture and death and how important it was to gather his faithful disciples to his side and give them direction. Christ established the foundation of his ministry through his disciples then and his ministry carries forward

today because he planted the seed of God's love into the world. His ministry continues to grow as we are all joined together by the one source of life....God in Christ instilled by his Holy Spirit. And here we pause for us all to remember that the human provider of earthly life is our mother...and father. So, it is important that we first give praise and glory to Almighty God in Christ for our own creation and then honor our mother and father for bringing forth our physical birth into the world. No matter what relationship we have or had with our physical mother and/or father...let us never forget that they still were our physical birth providers. But most important is to always acknowledge that we are all created first by the seed of Almighty God.

Christ said to his disciples; *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing."* (v5) This is a very true statement. If we have allowed Christ, through his Holy Spirit to live within us, we will bear fruit (nourishment) and then we can lead and help others who will also bear

positive spiritual fruit of the vine of Christ. In our own human creation, Almighty God planted the original seed of our life before our human conception. That seed becomes life and is a part of God's earthly creations. We live, we learn, we love and we die. And during this time, it is our human choice to believe these truths and desire to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and if we do, we are promised a new life eternal in heaven.

Christ continues on, listen; *“if you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”* (v7,8) A

well-nourished plant will produce large quantities of fruit and it is the same with us. If we are constantly nourished with the word of God and direction of his Holy Spirit, then we will produce encouragement not only for ourself but for others as well. If we don't...we will be useless to others. It is also with love that we are nourished. Look at what often happens when a child is not given real and sincere love.

They do not always turn out to be productive citizens. Let me emphasize as much as possible that God's love...I said GOD'S LOVE is one of the strongest emotions that produces goodness and virtue.

Christ then said; *“my command is this; love each other as I have loved you. For there is no love than the one who lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do as I command.”* (v12-14) There is no greater love than that of the Trinity (Almighty God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit as one entity). Christ demonstrated this love to his disciples, they felt it, received it and they shared it with the world. Christ's love continues today and is with us. We can...and must...receive Christ's love if we want to be able to love others as he loved others. I want to just pause here for a brief moment and ask you a few very straight forward questions:

- Do you consider yourself a loving person?
- Do you demonstrate the love and compassion that Christ wants you to show?

Only you can answer those questions? We all need to sincerely and constantly search our heart to always answer those questions honestly. The evil forces in this world continually spew forth hate and unrest...attempting to lure us away from the true love of Almighty God. Be careful in your thoughts and actions and go to God continually to ask him to help you. It is never too late to learn how to be better at demonstrating God's love and compassion for others.

92-year-old Bertrand Russell, a former agnostic professor at Columbia university said (and I quote): *“the root of the matter is an old-fashioned thing, a thing so simple I am almost ashamed to mention it in my old age, for fear of the derisive smile of my critics. This “thing” which I’m speaking about is what is called Christian love and compassion. If you possess this love and compassion, you have a motive for existence, a guide in action, a reason for courage, an imperative necessity for intellectual honesty...it is a reason to live. And now I finally admit this to be true in my old age.”*

This was an agnostic old man just beginning to learn about

Christian love and compassion. Praise God...and let's hope that many more people come to learn about Christian love and compassion...at any and all ages of life.

Christ leaves us with these words; *“you are my friends if you do as I command. This is my command: love each other.”*

(v17) Love each other...Christ's command...not the command of any human individual. If we love Christ, as we always should, then we must heed his command to love others.

- Oh, how I wish every powerful leader in this world would hear those words and believe them and obey them.
- Oh, how I wish every person in any leadership position would hear those words and believe them and obey them.
- Oh, how I wish I will hear those words over and over again and continue to believe them and obey them.

Yes, I admit there are times that I sometimes stumble and begin to display unhappiness and anger toward others. I am

human like you, and I can easily fall into the human nature of not showing more love and care to others...but praise be to God, he has given me the opportunity to see his way and I can turn to him and seek forgiveness for these ways. Jesus Christ helps me get back on the right track so that I can once again begin to see the positive side of each human being and begin to show love and compassion again to them. I may not like what that person is doing but I must, as Christ commands, to love their spirit and ask God to show them the correct way of life and pray that they will feel his love and compassion...and begin to follow him.

Christ commanded...not just asked us...but commanded us to *“love each other”*. Love mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, relatives, friends, enemies...everyone. As hard as it is, Jesus Christ has commanded us to love each other. Oh, we don't have to love what they do...but Christ commanded us to love them for they are his children like you and me. Believe me sometimes this is not an easy thing to do at times...but we must practice Christ's command to love each other and

demonstrate this love and compassion always...even when it hurts to do so.

Jesus Christ loved his birth mother Mary greatly and she displayed a mother's love to him greatly. So, friends, by the command of Christ let us go from this mother's day service demonstrating his love and compassion to all you come in contact with every day. We have a command from Christ to love each other...so we can move forward in this life feeling of love being assured that he is with us always. May God continue to show us the correct way and bless each of us...and all mothers.