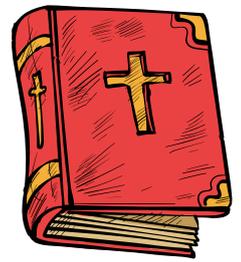




For Further Study



Read and meditate on the passage below:

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. (*John 15:9-12*)

These verses come from the gospel according to John in a section called the “Farewell Discourse” (John 13:31-17:26). Previously, Jesus spoke about the gardening of our lives that includes pruning away things that are harmful and cultivating us to live fruitful lives.

As Jesus expands on what that means, he calls our attention to the supremacy of self-sacrificing love. Jesus is not speaking about “being in love” and having an emotional attraction to someone; he is calling us to love with divine love that comes from God. The love that Jesus experienced from the Father is made known to the disciples through how he cares for them. Remaining in the love of Jesus, then, is not about being “obedient” but about experiencing the true love of God in relationship with God, ourselves, and others.

The “command” of Jesus is to love by showing care and concern for others through our everyday actions. Loving others in a way that mirrors the love of Jesus for us is the way for us to find and experience meaningful living and complete joy!



REFLECTION:

What does the love that Jesus speaks of here mean to you?

PRACTICE:

Think of someone who is hard for you to love and do something loving for them.