

As the Father Loved Me

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"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full," John 15:9-11.

In this passage we have the words of our Lord spoken to His disciples. In these three verses the Savior is concerned that they have full joy. No doubt we all desire to have full joy. I know of no one who desires only partial joy. What about you? Do you long for full joy? Then hear what Christ says to His disciples.

Christ teaches His disciples that if they are to have "full joy," His joy must remain in them and they must abide in His love. We too must have the joy of Christ remain in us and we too must abide in His love if we are to have "full joy." So we must ask a question of the text. What is the joy and love of Christ?

The love of Christ for His disciples is like the love of God the Father for the Son. "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you." This is a great love, a perfect love. It is a staggering statement of truth by our Lord. He says to His disciples that He loves them in the same way that the Father loved Him! WOW! Here is the source of Christ's joy: that He was loved and delighted in by His Father. In Proverbs 8:30 we have a glimpse into this inter-Trinitarian love. Here we are taught that Christ was beside His Father as a master craftsman and that He [Christ] "was daily His [the Father's] delight, rejoicing always before Him."

Christ knew and knows perfect love and full joy within the fellowship of the Trinity. And it is the "full joy" of fellowship with the Trinity that He desires for His people. You may be saying to yourself: Wait a minute – He didn't say anything about us being brought into the love and fellowship with the Trinity. But look at what He says at the beginning of this discourse in 14:23, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." The Father, We, and Our are the key words. The point is that the whole of the Godhead will dwell in fellowship with us. So then to remain in the love of Christ is to be brought into the love and fellowship of the Trinity. It is to know the inter-Trinitarian joy that Christ has known from all eternity.

How then are we to remain in the love of Christ so as to have "full joy" in fellowship with the Trinity? Christ states it very plainly in v.10, "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love."

So we may say with certainty that "full joy" is found only in obedience to and fellowship with the Triune God of heaven. Notice that it does not say that if we remain in the love of Christ that everything in our life will be just "peachy" and therefore we will have joy. NO! "Full joy" is NOT a by-product of fellowship with God, rather our joy is in fellowship with God. Our joy is that God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – comes and dwells with us. "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."