

THE LOVE CONNECTION (II)

John 21:17-25; John 15:9-14 (9-3-05)

INTRO: It is clear from the our first passage, that love has certain results. Love and performance are not an equation. Performance is not equal to love, but love results in performance. Especially if we define performance as the execution of a deed, or a thing done. The source of that performance is important. What is the source, the drive, the motivation of our “performance.” *Our focus, however, is love.* Let’s look at the source, the attributes and the results, if not the definition of love.

LOVE, THE DISCONNECTION-FROM CONTROL (one thing love is not).

In John 21:17 Jesus is completing the dialogue with Peter on love. Now in verse 18 He goes right into giving insight into a result of love. Love disconnects you from control. Your own direction. Jesus said when you were young you walked (peripateo) went about, LIVED as you wanted. Down the road “you will be carried” not by your own demands but by His. This is an emphasis, which is absolutely paramount to carrying out tasks. **Who is going to make the rules about when, how and why it should be done?** I don’t mind getting into the mundane, messy things of life, as long as I can control it. As long as it is on my terms. That is why the next part of the dialogue is more unnerving than the first. Verse 18 is the clear prescription by Jesus for how this thing is going to really work. I have trouble understanding a real smooth connection between verse 17 and 18. It doesn’t really flow for me the way some like some sharing Jesus does. Not until I **look close**. There is both challenge and assurance in verse 18. To a *world thinker it is an extreme challenge. I don’t want* someone else running my life, controlling my destiny, interrupting my personal world. Yet, there is something so freeing, so valuable, such a release of my spirit and my mind. IF I can realize that Someone else is running this thing, doing this thing, bringing the results forth. It is the death to life thing. I lose control, I gain freedom. I fight for control, I end up in bondage. It doesn’t really make sense in any setting I can think of.... except the Saviors’s setting. He will provide. He will determine. He will be in the middle of all of it.

LOVE, THE DISCONNECTION FROM COMPARISON

In 21:20-23 Jesus is clear that love does not look around at others and compare their results to mine. How distracted I can get if I am saying “what about them.” They may get more attention, they may have an easier life, and they may not end up in the same circumstance as I do, but I am disconnected from all of that. Why? Because I am only fixed on His love for me, out of which flows my love for Him, which is then spilled out of my life in the very way He has determined will bring perfection, or completion in my life.

LOVE, “THE DWELLING PLACE COMMANDMENT” JOHN 15:9-14

Notice the FLOW of this thing. *As the Father has loved me..(kathos) just as or according to* the way the Father loves Jesus, **SO HE loves us.** It is the flow of the Father into the life of Jesus AND THEN Jesus says, “YOU **continue** in this love of His.” This flow is out of the very character of God HIMSELF. The LOVE CONNECTION is from the Father into the Life of Christ, from Christ into mine and then from mine into SHEEP!! Then He says in 15: 10, if you “keep my **commandments (precepts** in the original language), you shall ABIDE (stay, dwell, remain) in My love.” Now the word KEEP here is not as hemmed in or imprisoned, but GUARDED, attended to, or protected. Remember, God does not HAVE LOVE He IS love. So the flow of this thing is the **very nature**, (not attribute) of God Himself. Literally, an aspect of His nature is imparted to me *if I dwell in the precepts, thoughts etc of Christ.* Let’s compare

John 14:23 where Jesus says “if you love me you will keep my WORD (thoughts, mental faculty, or motive, **[all of the mind]** My Father will love him...and we shall make our ABODE (residence or mansion from verse 2 of 14) with him. Wow!! This in 15:11 will result in joy, and then John 15:12 I am told that He is issuing a new commandment: **That we love one another as He has loved us.** SO, the flow of this is the nature of God, LOVE, goes from Him to Christ, to us, and then a COMMANDMENT THAT WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER IN THIS SAME MANNER. *This is not a nice idea, an option or a wish of Christ,* it is a **commandment, in order for Him to dwell in us, His body.**