

“The Decision Of Love”

By Mrs. Sojourner



Have you ever heard (or been) a person, disgruntled with his or her spouse or relative, and pontificated on how impossible it is to love the other because of

Understanding that no person is perfect, and some people do some very unloving things, it is possible to love people who are being unloving at the moment.

“How?!” you may ask. You decide to love them. Please let me explain. We were dead in sin and our Heavenly Father, who is love,^[a] decided to make a way to save us. His love for us was the whole reason he sent Jesus. Mankind, as a result of the Fall, was in a very unloving and unlovely state but God had already made the decision to love mankind so much as to sacrifice his only Begotten Son to provide a way of redemption for us all.^[b]

God is the greatest example and model of love, but how, you may wonder, do we walk in a decision of love.

First, let me be clear, if the

Notes:

^[a] 1 John 4:16

^[b] John 3:16-17

unloving person is abusing you, I am not saying that you need to stay and continue to be beaten up physically, emotionally, or verbally. Some people you may need to love from a distance at least for a time.

God tells us how to walk in the decision of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7: Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (NIV)

Meditating on this passage—getting to know it, will help you to remember the keys when you encounter unloving people so you can, with each action, walk in your decision to love.

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Sojourning

Vol. 7 No. 7 February 17, 2008

...with The Sojourner

“I Have Loved You” (Teaching Sketch)

John 15:9-17



“God is love,”¹ John 4:16 is a very familiar scripture to most believers in Jesus the Christ. Most unbelievers, as a matter-of-fact, are quick to point to these very words to describe God. Their understanding may be flawed regarding the meaning of this scripture but they nevertheless will also be often quick to say, “God is love.”

Jesus made a startling statement to his disciples,^{John 15:9} “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.” He said he loved his disciples in the same way the Heavenly Father loved him. Think of that!

If You Obey
Jesus said,^{John 15:10} “If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love.” The word remain can actually be translated “abide” in his love. Can you imagine a better place to live!

Then, also, the word “obey”^{John 15:10} can also be rendered as “follow the recipe.”

The key to abiding in Christ is to learn the recipe and follow it. You only get the correct baked goods if you stick to the recipe!

Full Of Joy
The scripture tells us, “The joy of the Lord is your strength.”^{Nehemiah 8:10} Jesus wanted the disciples to be filled with joy.^{John 15:11} Jesus, in telling them these things, wanted both they and their joy to be complete in him, thus preparing them to bring those who would believe because of them to completeness.^[1]

Love As I Have
The recipe Jesus gave had a major component—love. He told them to Love each other as he had loved them. He set the example or the pattern they were to follow. He tells them there is no greater love than to give up one’s life for another—a friend or neighbor.^{John 15:13}

Friend Of Jesus
Jesus makes it very clear Believers are recognized as friends if they are following his recipe—his plan—his command. How could anyone have a better friend than God

Notes:
[1] Ephesians 4:11-13, Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers.

Scripture:

John 15:9-17^(NIV)

⁹"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.



"The Sojourner Live"

**Sunday, March 2nd at
9:00 PM (EST)
8:00 PM (CST)**

The Sojourner will be broadcasting a special message on "The Kingdom" don't miss it.

Click the link on the his site's media page!

"I Have Loved You" (Teaching Sketch)

John 15:9-17

himself!

Knowing What God Does

Jesus, after saying these wonderful things, makes an even more startling statement. He says the Believer is not a servant but a friend! He actually says Believers will be allowed to know what God will do, is doing, and has done!^{John 15:15}

I Choose You

Jesus said in John 15:16 ... "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. The word choose there means "to select." Believers are selected and then "placed" (appointed, ordained) to bear fruit—that is to pluck fruit. We are not to wait for the fruit to fall for the harvest—we are to pluck it. When a fruit is plucked—plucked from the tree or the vine it is plucked because it is ready for harvest. The fruit which falls on it's own is in danger of being bruised, trampled, or rotting. A plucked fruit is cared for fruit. Protected fruit. Loved fruit!

Love The Fruit

Jesus told the disciples, "This is my command: Love each other."^{John 15:17} Believers are all fruit loved by Jesus the Christ and the fruit must love each other!

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

