

## The Love of a Father

### June 18, 2023

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**John 21:15-19**

**Do you love me more than these?**

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Peter started off overestimating his faithfulness and love for Jesus (Matt. 26:31-33). At the time, he was depending upon himself as he had not yet received the Holy Spirit.

✎ How often do you depend upon your own strength and heart to be faithful for which God has called you?

Jesus asked Peter three questions in our main passage, which was really two. Do you love me and do you love me more than these?

The main questions for each of us to wrestle with today are:

- Do I love Jesus and how do I intentionally express that love?
- Is there anything or anyone that I love more than Jesus? It's easy to say no, but do our lives reflect that truth?

## **The Love of a Father**

### **Small Group Discussion**

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We are not primarily talking about a father's love for their children. The primary "love of a father" is focused on a reflection of our love for God and allowing the Father's love to flow through us. Our love is a cheap imitation. If we are filled with God's love, it is the real thing & changes lives all around us.

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**Read all of John chapter 21 and focus on verses 15-19.**

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- 1) What did Jesus mean by the word "these" in verse 15? Why do you think he included that in the first question?
  - 2) In the first two questions in verses 15 & 16, Jesus used the term 'agape' for love, while Peter responded with 'phileo' love. Since these terms have been preached about on several occasions, and because there is easy access online to find the answers, discuss these terms and why they were used.
  - 3) Love does not equal obedience, but rather it is a response or the fruit of the love (John 14:15). However, look at John 14:16 and 1 John 4:7-12, 19. to see the source of that love.
  - 4) Finally, do you love Jesus? If so, how do you love Him? How do you express that? How is it different from your love for your parents, spouse, kids, friends, etc.?
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Pray through Ephesians 3:14-19 for one another. Pray God will fill you with His love, that you may love Him, that you may love one another, and that you may love your neighbour with the powerful love of God.