

8.00pm

Holy Communion

Text: John 15

Title: “Abide in My love”. John 15:9

INTRODUCTION

1. The Love of God

- a) Profound
- b) Powerful
- c) Precious

2. Our Difficulties

- a) We do not fully comprehend God’s Love
- b) We struggle with practising the Love of God in our daily life

THE LORD JESUS AS THE TRUE VINE

¹ “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

⁵ “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

John 15:1-5

1. The Concept

- a) The Lord Jesus describes Himself as the True Vine
- b) God is the Vinedresser
- c) We are the Branches

2. The Challenge

- a) We are to bear fruit as branches
- b) The unfruitful branch is taken away
- c) God as the Vinedresser will prune the branches that it may bear more fruit

VITAL INSIGHTS CONCERNING THE CONCEPT OF “ABIDING”

1. Abiding in the Lord Jesus

⁵ “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

John 15:5-6

- a) The branch must abide in the True Vine
- b) If there is true abiding, much fruit would result
- c) Without the Lord we can do nothing
- d) If we do not abide, we will wither
- e) We will end up as withered branches that would be burned

2. Abiding in the Word

⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

John 15:7-8

- a) We must abide in the Lord Jesus
- b) We must also abide in His words (teachings)
- c) Our prayers would be answered
- d) We will become fruitful disciples
- e) The Father will be glorified

3. Abiding in the Love of the Lord Jesus

⁹ “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

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.

¹¹ “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

- a) We are to abide in the Love of the Lord Jesus
- b) We abide in His love when we keep His commandments
- c) We will find fulness of joy

REITERATION OF THE COMMANDMENT TO LOVE

¹² This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

¹⁴ You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

John 15:12-14

1. A commandment

- a) To love one another
- b) As He has loved us

2. No greater love

- a) To lay down one's life for a friend
- b) The Lord Jesus calls us "friends"

CONCLUSION

1. Proof of the Lord's love

- a) This has been demonstrated
- b) His Love is unparalleled

2. Power of His love

- a) It can touch us deeply
- b) It can change us
- c) It can empower us

3. Personal response

- a) To appreciate the Lord's love afresh
- b) To abide in His love
- c) To abound in His love