

Abide



Abide - Community

Date: Sunday 22nd January 2023

Speaker: Pui Tang & Jeff Stamps

Key Verses: John 15:7

Talk Summary:

How can we keep Jesus's command to love each other well?

1.) We love each other by first dwelling in the relationship with Jesus

Jesus told his disciples to keep his commands, and remain in His love. This is very important because "apart from the vine, you can do nothing." We have to go back to Jesus' teaching, listen to His words, follow Him, let the Holy Spirit refresh us, and let His words shine into our lives. This is how we keep on dwelling in His love. And, very importantly, Jesus is the source and energy that we need for loving others. We love each other with God together.

2.) We love each other through the power of the Holy Spirit

We are not loving people all by ourselves. We are partnering with our God. He will empower us to love the people who are not always good, not always easy to love, and might hurt us in some ways. God is our strength, and He will help us to keep on loving others. We are not doing it alone. We are not drawing our own energy to love people. Instead, we are so blessed to work out this seemingly impossible thing with our God.

3.) Jesus offer Joy and friendship when we persevere in love

When we are in His love, such a relationship of love leads to joy. This is the joy of obedience that will be in us. This joy of obedience helps us when we go through difficulties. This joy is different from a short-term happy moment. When we obey Jesus' commands, His joy will be in us because we are remaining in His will, which means loving one another. You don't have to be the one who is always showing love to people, you can be a recipient

of love too.

The disciples are declared to be his friends by acting out Jesus' love and their obedience to his teaching. Obeying His command because we understand His character: we have understood His heart and we know who Jesus is. Jesus wants his disciples to understand him, to know him more, and to love him. Jesus is the Lord, but he also wants to develop a deeper relationship with us.

4.) Sometimes loving each other means sacrifice

Jesus lay down his life and sacrificed for us because he loves us. He sacrificed himself, so that we gain life in His name. This is the love that he has for his people. He has set up a model for his disciples to follow. Therefore, this love might come with sacrifice. There are so many wonderful things that you can do to serve others. Love might come with sacrifice but when you act in this way, you can be assured that you are a friend of Jesus.

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a moment of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? (Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant your group)

1. On a scale of 1-10 how are you doing spending time with our God? Do you think this amount of time enough for you to abide in Jesus? If yes, good. Please keep it up. If not, is there anything that you could do a little bit better?
2. Is there any invitation from God in the preach on Sunday?
3. What would you do where some church people are not easy for you to show love? Is there any broken situation that happens between you and the church community?
4. What do you think you can do more to serve others?

Witness - *How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?*

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?

Other Notes:

Young Adults Retreat - Friday, 24 February → Sunday, 26 February 2023
BVC.SO/YoungAdults