

The Disciple whom Jesus loved(s)—Boasting in God’s love for you

1 John 4:16-19 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. 17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. 19 We love him, because he first loved us.

- a) You need to know and believe God loves you. We need to believe the love that God has for us.
- b) When our love is made perfect, we become bold even in a day of judgment. A lack of revelation of how much God loves us will not release boldness in and to us.

“...as he is, so are we in this world.” How is he? He is love. And He dwells in us and us in Him therefore as He is so are, we in this world.

- c) The Word teaches that there is no fear in love. Where we have a revelation of the love of God, there is no fear.
- d) Perfect love casts out fear.
 - i) What is perfect love? Perfect love is the love of the Father for us. It is perfect and complete.
 - ii) When we get a revelation and start to believe His perfect love for us, fear will be cast out. The reason we fear is because we do not know nor have, we received the perfect love of God for us.
- e) God doesn’t love us because of what we do or our service. We need to renew our minds to this.
- f) The law says you must love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. This was impossible. No one could achieve nor achieved this. Grace says, God loves you.

- i) In the New Covenant, one of the greatest revelations you can receive is that God loves you and making that personal. You should not be boasting in your love for Him, but in His love for you.
- g) God first loved us. We need to receive and know His love for us rather than boast in our love for Him.
 - i) Knowing and receiving the Lord of God for you personally is stronger and superior to our love for the Lord.

Rich, The Disciple whom Jesus loved

I'm convinced that I'm the disciple whom Jesus loved. John was writing about me. Jesus loves me! It is awesome. I know it and I'm convinced about it as well. As disciples we need grounding in the love of the Father for us, not our love for Him.

As a disciple, you need a revelation and grounding of His love for you. This will then make you a disciple whom Jesus loved(s).

One of the common challenges we see about the love of God is trying to make it performance based. We tend to tie it to our good deeds and our performance.

- a) John 13:21-24 21 When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.** 22 Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake. 23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. 24 Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake. 25 He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it?
 - i) This was a difficult time. Jesus was sharing about His betrayal which obviously was difficult seeing He was troubled in spirit. Someone in His camp was just about to betray Him.
 - o Notice that the 11 (eleven) disciples were concerned about who it was, busy looking around and on each other, yet *John*, the disciple whom Jesus loved was not even moved by any of this. **He was in another world.**
 - ⇒ Those that have a revelation of the love of God for them are not carried away, moved, and concerned with what others are concerned about. They are secure in their Father's love for them, resting in His bosom receiving comfort, peace, and love from Him.
 - He was calm and chill even in the midst of such serious and troubling talk. Why is that? John had a revelation of Jesus'

love for Him and was not concerned nor carried away by things that do not count.

⇒ Those who have a revelation of Jesus' love for them will not focus on what others focus on.

ii) Bosom is a place of comfort and peace which pictures a dependence on His love.

iii) John was leaning on Jesus' bosom, not Peter's or any other disciple. No one loved him as much or even close to how much Jesus did.

⇒ When you get a revelation of Jesus' love for you, you will not want to lean on no one else. You will want to lean only on Jesus—Jesus' bosom.

- Leaning on other people and things is proof enough that we have not received revelation of the love of Jesus for us or else we would be leaning on them.
- Lean on Jesus' not your doctor, employer, husband, or wife.

⇒ Leaning on Jesus' bosom also communicates **confidence** that comes from a knowing of one's love for you. John knew that Jesus loved him, and it **freed him up**.

⇒ Those who have a revelation of Jesus' love for them will have confidence before the Lord and they will be freed up to live freely and happily.

iv) It says the disciple whom Jesus loved.

⇒ It does not say a believer whom Jesus loved. Believers do not have enough revelation of how much God loves them. A person that does not have this revelation (of His love toward him), has not become a disciple yet. I have not read of a believer whom Jesus loves even if he exists.

v) It also does not say a disciple who loved Jesus. It says whom Jesus loved.

⇒ No doubt John loved the Lord, but he only talked of Jesus' love for Him. This was more important. He perceived this love and continually assured his heart of it.

vi) This says **one** of the disciples *not all*.

- Other disciples were not leaning on Jesus' bosom. Why? They possibly had not received God's love for them. **They had the same access as John did, yet they never capitalized on it.**

⇒ Those who have a revelation of the love of Jesus toward them will enjoy a more special and intimate place than those who do not. It is up to them, not the Lord.

vii) Simon Peter asked John who was in the bosom of Jesus to ask Him who would betray him.

- Why didn't Peter do it himself? If he had the revelation of Jesus' love for him, **we all know Peter—he would be all over the place with it.** Peter would not have asked anyone else to do that for him.

⇒ The point is that those who know and receive the love of the Father for them will be elevated to access certain decisions and have more influence than those who do not. No doubt John's influence was greater than Peter's, yet the Lord loved them equally.

⇒ John's place of having a revelation of Jesus' love for him promoted him above his peers and made him a point of access and spokesperson on their behalf. This should not be so, but those who have a revelation of Jesus' love for them will experience it.

viii) When John asked the Lord, the Lord answered (John 13:26).

⇒ A revelation of the love of God for you will bring answers that others may miss.

b) John 19:26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, **Woman, behold thy son!**

i) All the disciples that loved Jesus ran away when Jesus got arrested (Mark 14:50 And they all forsook him, and fled.) Only John the disciple who knew and received the love of Jesus for him stayed with the Lord as we see at the cross.

⇒ Those who have a revelation, know, receive Jesus' love for them and how much He loves them **will outlast those who claim or boast of their love for God.**

- Those who love God ran away and will run, but those who know they are loved by Jesus will not run in fear. When others are running off, they remain.

⇒ When others are running from the Lord, John run to the Lord because they know that He loves them, and he is their refuge.

⇒ Jesus entrusted His mother to John, not any other because he had gotten revelation of how much He loves him. What was special about John was that He was a disciple whom Jesus loved. Jesus would not have entrusted His mother to John just like that except he knew how much Jesus loved him, not based on his love for Him.

- **He was secure and most stable of all**, why? Because he had this revelation of Jesus' love for him. Powerful!
- This security in the love of Jesus for Him gave him one of the greatest honors.
- When someone has a revelation of Jesus' love for them, **they can be trusted**. That is why Jesus trusted John.

c) John 20:2 Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him. 3 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. 4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

⇒ A revelation of the love of Jesus for you will cause you to **run with others**. John did not run alone. He recognized the need for others. You cannot run alone if you want to go far. You need to run with others.

⇒ The disciple whom Jesus loved (John) **outran** the disciple who loved Jesus (John 21:17).

⇒ Those who have received and have a revelation of how much God loves them—not how much they love Him, **will outran those who love God**.

⇒ They will go far, faster and stay longer than those who love God.

i) Notice that John not only outran Peter, but he also arrived first to the sepulcher.

⇒ A revelation of the love of God for you will bring you first. It will promote you, elevate you above all your challenges and problems. You need to get a hold of it.

- Receiving a revelation of God's love for you will add fuel to your tank and cause you to come out ahead of others. You will be ahead of problems and so forth.

- d) John 21:7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.
- i) There were other disciples fishing with John yet no one of them recognized Jesus, but John.
 - ⇒ Those who know how much God loves them and have received the love of God for them **know and recognize the Lord more than those who claim and boast of their love the Lord.**
 - The disciple whom Jesus loved **recognized the Lord** before the disciple who loved Jesus (John 21:17).
 - ⇒ Those who have a revelation and know how much God loves them and have received His love for them **will inspire to action those that do not know and those who boast in their love for the Lord.**
 - Peter's actions were because of John's revelation of a disciple whom Jesus loved. It is only until he recognized Jesus and told Peter that he jumped into the sea swimming to the shore.
- e) John 21:20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?
- i) Those who have revelation of Jesus' love for them are already following Him. When others look that He has told to follow Him, we will be already following.
 - ⇒ Jesus told Peter to follow him (John 21:19), **but the disciple whom Jesus loved was already following.** Jesus did not tell John to follow Him. Why? He was already doing that. I believe it is down to a revelation of Jesus' love for hm.
 - ii) Notice this: At dinner or supper time where many folks are doing everything to fill their plates, John was busy leaning on Jesus' breast. He was not caught up with eating. Who wants to eat when they are in the presence of the Lord and a place of comfort? John knew how much the Lord loved him and he maximized on it.
 - ⇒ John knew that Jesus loved Him that's why He called himself the **"Disciple whom Jesus loved."** John was convinced and he was the only one who wrote about this, this way.
 - Knowing Peter well through the Gospels, if he had this revelation of how much the Lord loved him, Peter would have written about it, no doubt!

iii) **Boast of the Lord's love for you, not your love for Him.**

- o Peter boasted of his love for Jesus, While John boasted of Jesus' love for Him.

Assure your heart of the love of God for you

It is critical that we learn to assure our hearts. This is an area many believers do not know about, and it is as crucial as it gets. When John wrote these words "the disciple whom Jesus loved" Those words were not in red—they weren't the words of Jesus. John had grown and convinced himself of God's love for him.

1 John 3:16-21 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. 19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. 20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

John—the Disciple whom Jesus loved is the same disciple that wrote 1 John 3:16-21 and one of the main things he speaks about is:

a) Perceiving the love of God

- i) We need to continually perceive the love of God and also assure our hearts of His love for us. We perceive (know) the love of God by looking at the cross—death of Jesus (1 John 3:16).
- ii) 1 John 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.
 - o How do you know the Lord loves you? Because He died for you. He laid down His life for you. Some people look at the things they have as a sign that God loves them, but there is not math or comparison to this revelation that God loves me proof being He died for me. He died in my place.

b) Assuring our hearts.

- i) One thing that made John stand out is he had assured his heart of the love of God for him. This should be true for all of us. **We need to assure, persuade, and convince our hearts of the love of God for us—not our love for Him.**

- ii) There will be a time where it does not feel that He loves us, but all we need to do is assure our hearts. Our hearts—especially our soul needs continual assurance, convincing and persuasion that flows from the reality in our born-again spirit man in order for us to stay in the will of God.
- iii) We will be condemned, fearful, and Satan will try to talk us out of the love of God and/or whatever God has called us to do if we do not learn to assure our hearts.

I have personally discovered that when God calls us to do certain things, we will on occasions have opportunities to doubt or even back off. We need to learn to assure our hearts in areas such as:

- His love for us
- Vision
- Call of God
- Giftings of God on our lives.