Love within the Trinity

*In* ***Jesus’*** *own words*

Gather Bible Study

*April 15, 2025*

Jesus’ words –

God Loving Us

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”  *John 3:16-17*

‘For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and believed that I came from God.” *John 16:27*

Loving God – the command

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. “ *Matthew 22:34-40*

The how:

“ God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this:...we love because he first loved us…The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.”

*(John’s inspired words) 1* *John 4:17-21*

Jesus Loving Us

“ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.” *John 15:13-14*

“ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.” *John 15:11*

Loving Jesus

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

*John 14:15*

Loving one another

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” *John 13:34-35*

*(servant, sacrificial love)*

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” *John 15:12*

The Trinity – and us – (John 14:11-24)

“Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father…..If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ….They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them. Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.”

*John 14 :11-24*

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Observations:

This Love is not a feeling, it is action, a journey

Chuck Swindoll “ to know God, to love God – it’s a lifetime pursuit, a day to day commitment – a choice. Choose to know God, walk with him obediently, love him consistently.”

Keeping God’s and Jesus’s commandments is not possible with out the Holy Spirit and Jesus’ help – Loving the divine trinity is a relationship that requires believing, focus and will. (and help and community)

A commandment to keep for Easter:

Matthew 28: 17-20, John 21:15-19

How to do this – this Easter

Possible approaches-

* Possible questions/topic opener

1. What does Easter represent to you? (importance of the resurrection story – sacrifice, Jesus’ divinity)
2. What do you think the message of Easter is? (hope – of renewal, forgiveness, fresh start)
3. What do you think about the idea that someone could rise from the dead?
4. What is one thing that you wish was different about last year? (avoid politics – express empathy)
5. Do you ever feel like life is not the way its meant to be?

* Embody love, encouragement, positivity – believe all things
* Share your story – (interesting, brief, up beat, smile)
  + a. before Christ (your struggles, lonliness, lack of peace)
  + b. the decision (interesting/brief)
  + c. the change – your life with Christ (the difference he has made, emphasize faith over feeling)

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Qs.

1. After studying Jesus’ words – what is a take away for you?
2. What approach will you most likely consider for Easter – in light of the great commission? (teach the bible, make disciples)
3. What commandment are you standing on, a place you have already staked claim in your journey? (scripture reading, bible study, prayer, worship, sharing God’s word, church, loving others in service, belief, faith….other)