



THE WORD *Alive*

The Preaching Ministry of
Ashley River Baptist Church

DO YOU LOVE ME? JOHN 21:14-17

14 This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead. 15 So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs." 16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep."

I. THE QUESTION OF LOVE

"Simon, *son of John, do you love Me?*" (v. 15, 16, 17)

Love: AGAPE (used by Jesus in v. 16, 17) expressed in action that regards its object highly and seeks its well being; based on evaluation and choice; a matter of will and action; used of God's benevolent toward mankind.

Love: PHILEO (used by Peter in response and Jesus in v. 17) friendly relational kind of love; brotherly love;

Peter's denial of Jesus demonstrated he was not ready to love Jesus as a crucified Lord.

Jesus challenges us to love Him with the love He deserves - a **supreme love of the will and not simply an affection of the heart** - and for who He is as Lord - **not who we would define Him to be.**

II. THE COMPARISON OF LOVE

"Simon, *son of John, do you love Me more than these?*" (v. 15)

THESE:

- 1) More than these other men love me?
- 2) More than you love these other apostles?
- 3) More than you love fishing and worldly pursuits?

Our true love for Jesus is best revealed in comparison with the love we devote to other less deserving things in life.

While Jesus does not demand an "either / or" love that necessarily excludes love for anything else, He alone is deserving of our supreme sacrificial love and challenges us regarding anything or anyone that would compromise that place of supreme affection in our lives.

III. THE RESULT OF LOVE

"Tend My lambs." (v.15)

"Shepherd My sheep." (v.16)

"Tend My sheep." (v.17)

CONCLUSION:

True love for Jesus results in a responsibility given in relationship and a demonstration of that love through faithful fulfillment of that responsibility.

Peter had verbally asserted his love for Jesus, but the true love our Lord demands is not bound in words, but reflected in a life devoted to sacrificial service to others.

That service is the overflow from a love for Jesus in our hearts that places Him in His rightful place of supreme affection and devotion. With Peter and with us, our relationship with and service to our Lord begins with love. Examine your life. Do YOU love Him "more than these"?