

Building Bridges

Jn. 15:9-14, 17

“Building Bridges Via Respect for Faithful Truth”

Jn. 15:9 **As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.**

10 **If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love;** even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

11 These things have I spoken unto you, **that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.**

12 This is **my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.**

13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

14 **Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. ...**

17 These things I command you, that ye **love one another.**

Our theme this year is “*Building Bridges.*” A few weeks ago we began considering the construction of such bridges via RESPECT.

Respect – esteem for or a sense of the worth or excellence of a person, a personal quality or ability, or something considered as a manifestation of a personal quality or ability:

<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/respect?s=t>

A simple observation of daily news is a testimony of society’s need for respect. Friday evening an NFL quarterback decided to disrespect our flag by staying seated during the playing of our National Anthem: He told NFL Media in an exclusive interview after the game, "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country..."

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000691077/article/colin-kaepernick-explains-protest-of-national-anthem>

We are such a horrible country that it is a such a place where someone like him signed a 6 year, \$114,000,000 contract, including a \$12,328,766 signing bonus, \$61,000,000 guaranteed, and an average annual salary of \$19,000,000. In 2016, he will earn a base salary of \$11,900,000, a roster bonus of \$2,000,000 and a workout bonus of \$400,000.

<http://www.spotrac.com/nfl/san-francisco-49ers/colin-kaepernick-7751/>

“Building Bridges Via Respect Within the Family”

“Building Bridges Via Respect Among the Faithful”

“Building Bridges Via Respect Toward the Faithless”

This morning we will continue the theme of “*Building Bridges via Respect*” by considering from where the fountainhead of all respect flows...the WORD OF GOD!

“Building Bridges Via Respect for Faithful Truth”

I. THE CERTAINTY OF RESPECT, Jn. 15:9

Jn. 15:9 **As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.**

A. The Relationship between God the Father and His Son

B. The Relationship between God the Son and His Children

...SO HAVE I LOVED YOU...

1 Jn. 3:1 **Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:** therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

II. THE CONTINUITY OF RESPECT, Jn. 15:10

Jn. 15:10 **If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love;** even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

A. The Promise from the Savior – **“If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love...”**

Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which **God, that cannot lie,** promised before the world began;

Heb. 6:18 That by two immutable things, in which it was **impossible for God to lie**, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

Rom. 3:4 “...**yea, let God be true, but every man a liar...**”

- How can we keep His commandments if we do not know what they are?
- If the commandments are synonymous with the Bible, then must we not consider that the Bible must be true?

Psa. 12:6 **The words of the LORD are pure words:** as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Psa. 119:140 **Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.**

Prov. 30:5 **Every word of God is pure:** he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

- God is changeless and so is His Word.

Psa. 119:89 **For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.**

Isa. 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but **the word of our God shall stand for ever.**

Mt. 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but **my words shall not pass away.**

1 Pet. 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of **incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever**. ...

25 But **the word of the Lord endureth for ever**. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

- God has magnified His Word above His name.

Psa. 138:2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for **thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name**.

- To neglect God's Word is to show disrespect unto God, personally.

Mark 8:38 **Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words** in this adulterous and sinful generation; **of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed**, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

B. The Practice of the Savior – “...even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.”

Jn. 8:29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for **I do always those things that please him.**

- Believers are to follow the example of their Savior.

1 Jn. 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so **to walk, even as he walked.**

- In order for us to please the Lord, we must walk by faith.

Heb. 11:6 But **without faith it is impossible to please him**: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Heb. 10:38 Now **the just shall live by faith**: but if any man draw back, **my soul shall have no pleasure in him.**

- There is a definite correlation between faith and the Word of God.

Rom 10:17 So then **faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

- Our respect for God is relative to our study of the Scriptures.

2 Tim. 2:15 **Study to shew thyself approved unto God**, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**

Psa. 119:6 Then shall I not be ashamed, when **I have respect unto all thy commandments. ...**

Psa. 119:15 I will meditate in thy precepts, and have **respect unto thy ways. ...**

Psa. 119:117 Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and **I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.**

- When we have respect for the Scriptures, what we learn influences how we live.
- The two rivers, of learning the Scriptures and their leading in our hearts, are at the confluence of the way we are living our lives.

III. THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH RESPECT, Jn. 15:11-14

Jn. 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, **that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.**

12 This is **my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.**

13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

14 **Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. ...**

- A. Obedience accompanies the consequence of growing love for Christ.
- B. Obedience accompanies the consequence of growing faith in Christ.
- C. Obedience accompanies the consequence of growing joy through Christ
- D. Obedience accompanies the consequence of growing friendship with Christ.

Conclusion

THE CONTINUANCE OF SUCH RESPECT, Jn. 15:17

Jn. 15:17 These things I command you, that ye **love one another.**

Jn. 14:15 **If ye love me**, keep my commandments. ...

21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, **he it is that loveth** me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. ...

23 Jesus answered and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words:** and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.