

The Question that Proves My Conviction John 21:15-17

All of Christianity is demonstrated through love. Jesus declares the love of God through the achievement of His death, burial, and the resurrection.

Romans 5:7-9 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God demonstrated his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Peter did not demonstrate very well his love for Jesus leading up to the crucifixion, in fact just the opposite. He denied Jesus three times publicly.

Now as they are having a meal together Jesus takes time to publicly ask Peter to search his heart and answer the question concerning love.

Peter had to still be stinging from the moment when he fulfilled the Lord's prophesy concerning this denial. It was just days before when this happened.

Luke 22:61-62 And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

1. What is love?

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (Good News Translation) Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. ⁷ Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail. Love is eternal...

2. Do I love Jesus?

Three times Peter is asked about his love for Jesus. Each time Peter answers with the correct answer but is unsure of his commitment. (The previous denial)

3. What does the love of Jesus compel me to do?

Jesus tells Peter each time after his answer about love to do something about that answer. Feed my sheep. This command to serve others must be fully motivated by the love of Christ.

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.