

John 15:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Jesus declares 'As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you' (kathos egapesen me ho pater, kago egapesa hymas). The comparison kathos... houtos (as... so) establishes proportion - the love between Father and Son is the measure of Christ's love for believers. This is staggering: divine intra-Trinitarian love extended to humans. The perfect tense egapesen (has loved) indicates completed action with continuing results - eternal, unchanging love. Jesus commands 'continue ye in my love' (meinate en te agape te eme). The verb meno (abide/continue) appears again. Believers are to remain in Christ's love - not earning it but consciously receiving and resting in it. The preposition en (in) suggests immersion, like dwelling in an environment. This is not sentimental emotion but covenant commitment mirroring the Father-Son relationship.

Historical Context

This verse provides window into the Trinity's inner life - the love between Father and Son is the eternal reality into which believers are invited. Early Trinitarian debates referenced passages like this to understand divine relationships. Athanasius argued that the Father's love for the Son is eternal and essential, not created - and that believers share in this divine love through adoption. Medieval mysticism emphasized contemplating divine love as spiritual practice. Reformers emphasized that assurance comes from understanding the unchanging nature of God's love. The comparison to Father-Son love grounded security - as the Father's love for the Son cannot fail, neither can Christ's love for believers. Modern

psychology emphasizes human need for love; this verse addresses that need at the deepest level - we are loved with the very love that constitutes the Trinity's eternal life.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that Christ loves us with the same love the Father has for Him - how can finite humans receive infinite divine love?
2. How do we 'continue' in Christ's love - what actions or attitudes constitute remaining in His love?

Interlinear Text

καθὼς	ἡγάπησα·	με	ό	πατήρ	κάγὼ	ἡγάπησα·	ὑμᾶς
As	hath loved	me	G3588	the Father	I	hath loved	you
G2531	G25	G3165		G3962	G2504	G25	G5209
μείνατε	ἐν	τῇ	ἀγάπῃ	τῇ	ἐμῇ		
continue ye	in	G3588	love	G3588	my		
G3306	G1722		G26		G1699		

Additional Cross-References

John 17:26 (Love): And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

1 John 2:28 (Parallel theme): And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

Revelation 1:5 (Love): And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

John 15:13 (Love): Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:11 (Parallel theme): These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

Ephesians 3:18 (Parallel theme): May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

Jude 1:20 (Love): But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,