

# DO YOU LOVE ME?

John 21:15-17

How would you answer Jesus'  
question?

# *Background*

- Peter denied Christ 3 times before his crucifixion
- Our text shows Jesus and Peter
  - NOT in confrontation
  - BUT in reconciliation
- Jesus is trying to reassure Peter that his denial is forgiven
- BUT – there is more to this passage than meets the eye

# *English word - LOVE*

- In English – we have only one word – LOVE
- **We love** – clothes, movies, cars, houses, music, TV shows, ice cream, pizza and Dr. Pepper
- **We also love** – people, family, friends, spouse, elders, the church, God, Jesus, eternal life
- **NOTE:** This may explain the lack of love and commitment in many marriages.
- **We love people the way we love our car** – until it breaks down. Then it becomes a piece of junk.

# *Greeks have 4 words - love*

- **Agape** – To love dearly, to regard the welfare of another, to seek what is best for another
  - John 3:16 – God so loved (agape) the world
  - John 15:13 – Greater love (agape) has no man than this
- **Phileo** – To be fond of, to be friends, have a preference for, to take pleasure in, an attraction for – closer to the English word “friendship”
- **Storge** – natural, family, love your next of kin
- **Eros** – (not in the Bible) – animal passion, sexual love

# *Background of our text*

- Apostles fishing all night – caught nothing
- Jesus – put net on other side of the boat
- Not logical – but Jesus said it, we will do it
- Caught 153 fish – nets did not break
- Jesus is already cooking breakfast for them

# *Study the text John 21:15*

- Pay attention to Jesus' question
- **Agape** – deep, true love
- Pay attention to Peter's answer
- **Phileo** – friendship, enjoy being together
- So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love (agape) Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love (phileo) You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

# *Study the text John 21:16*

- Pay attention to Jesus' question
- **Agape** – deep, true love
- Pay attention to Peter's answer
- **Phileo** – friendship, enjoy being together
- He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love (agape) Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love (phileo) You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep."

# *Study the text John 21:17*

- Pay attention to Jesus' third question
- **Phileo** – “Peter, are we good friends?”
- Peter was grieved at the 3<sup>rd</sup> question
- Jesus drove home the level of Peter's love
- He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love (phileo) Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love (phileo) Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love (phileo) You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.

# *DO YOU LOVE ME?*

- Do you love God? Love Jesus? Love the church?
- How strong is your love? Is it agape or phileo?
- Is your love for Jesus strong enough to obey His commands?
- How would you answer the question – When Jesus asks you – **DO YOU LOVE ME?**

# DO YOU LOVE ME?

John 21:15-17

How would you answer Jesus' question?