

HOW DO YOU LOVE HIM?

August 14, 2005

John 21:12-25

1. **Jesus calls his disciples to come and dine with him** – he still invites his disciple to come and commune with him. If we are to truly know him, we must spend time with him.
2. **Jesus confronts Peter with the question** - “*do you love (agapao – to love unconditionally, self-denying love) me*”?
3. **Was Jesus referring to the fish or the other disciples is not clear, but:**
 - **If he means the fish** – Peter had been called to follow him before and now after three years of following him, because of the LORD’s absence from them, Peter had returned to his old job. Not that he was sinning, but he had left the job Jesus had called him to – to be fishers of men.
 - **If he meant the other disciples** – Peter could not answer Jesus using the “agapao” kind of love. After all, he had denied Him three times.
4. **Peter’s answer:** ‘Yes Lord; thou knowest that I love (phileo - brotherly, friendship) thee.’ Why couldn’t Peter use the same word for love that Jesus used?
 - **Maybe he remembered his denial of Christ before his crucifixion:**
 - **Matthew 26:33** – Peter had told Jesus although everyone else might be offended by him, he would never be offended by Jesus
 - Peter said this after the LORD told him that he would deny him 3 times that very night
 - **Peter is now condemning himself for his weakness, and dares not use the strong word for love that Jesus uses:**
 - He remembers no doubt that he was ashamed to be associated with Christ
5. **Christ telling Peter to feed his lamb and sheep indicates that Peter was restored to his apostleship. He was repentant and forgiven. Now Christ was asking him to commit his life to him and his work - to the church – the sheep.**

How much do you love Him – enough to do His will?