

Learning to Lean

(Joh 13:23 KJVR) Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom **one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved.**

FIVE times in the Bible the phrase is mentioned, “the disciple whom Jesus loved”. The interesting thing is that all five of them are found in John’s gospel and John used this phrase to refer to Himself! John had learned a secret that He constantly practiced. To some it sounded like arrogance but in actuality it is the highest humility.

In John 13 Jesus and the disciples were having their last meal together. After Jesus shared the bread and wine he solemnly told His disciples that one of them would betray Him. Simon Peter was full of self confidence and proclaimed His love for the Savior. He boasted that He would stand up for Him until death. Jesus told him in sadness that he would deny Him that very night. **Simon boasted of His love for the Lord but John boasted of the Lord’s love for him!** ***When you live by your own performance and trust in what you can do for the Lord you will always sense a distance from the Master.*** Peter that night felt a distance from Jesus, so he asked John to ask Him who the betrayer was. John felt comfortable being close to Jesus because all he was conscious of was His love for him. John was reclining next to Jesus and was leaning his head in His bosom. **John was resting in the love Jesus had for him.** The one that boldly boasted of his love for the Lord in a few hours denied him in front of a little girl. All of the disciples that boasted of their love for the Lord ran from the guards that came to seize Jesus. The **ONLY** disciple that followed the Lord all the way to the cross was **JOHN**. He was the only one of the disciples that was there to bring comfort to the Savior in his sufferings on the cross.

(Joh 19:26 KJVR) When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the **disciple** standing by, **whom he loved**, he saith unto his mother, **Woman, behold thy son!**

John was there in Jesus dying hour to bring comfort to Him concerning the care of His mother. What brought strength to John to follow Christ even to the cross? Was it his undying love for Jesus? No, it was John’s trust in Christ’s dying love for Him.

(1Jn 4:19 KJVR) **We love him, because he first loved us.**

We love Him because we first receive love from Him. John was so conscious of this love that he practiced God's love for him by calling himself the disciple whom Jesus loved. Again this phrase occurs **FIVE** times in John's gospel. Five in the bible stands for grace. How did John walk powerfully in the grace of God? How can we as Christ's disciples walk powerfully in the grace of God? It is by resting fully upon Christ's love for you. You can fully trust in the love of a man who has died for you. Christ suffered blows from fists, spit, insults, the cat of nine tails, a crown of thorns, a heavy cross, and nails in His hands and feet to show you that He loves you without limit. He by His obedience to God paid for all of the sins of your lifetime and has given to you His perfection before God. You can rest in the love of the man who died for you. If you are sick today, lean upon the Savior's bosom and love. If you are in financial straights, lean upon the Savior's bosom and love. If you are having relational problems, lean upon the Saviors bosom and love. If you are struggling with sin especially lean confidently upon the bosom of the Savior and His love. He bled love to forgive you. His living love in you will empower and guide you. His love will be the grace that will carry you through all that you are going through and cause you to stay faithful to Him.

Those who are legalistic focus on trying to love the Lord and boast of what they do to love the Lord. These people are doomed to fail the Lord. John knew the secret of boasting in the Lord's love for Him and letting waves of His love propel him to a God honoring life. Boast today of the Lord's love for you and you will find yourself loving him more and more. Amen.

Confession: I am the Christian that Jesus loves. Jesus loves me. Jesus I thank you that you love me. I thank you for suffering for me. I thank you for forgiving me of all my sins. I thank you for giving me your perfection before God. I thank you that your love is in me empowering me to live a God honoring life right now. I do not boast of my love for you, but I boast in your love for me.

Prayer: Father, I ask you to reveal your love in greater ways to my heart. Cause my heart to see Christ upon the cross for me and experience a love I have never experienced before today. Only you can do it Father and I trust you to do it. In Jesus name. Amen.

