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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**John 21:15-17**  
**Lesson #73**  
**Blessed to bless**  
**05/14/2017**

*Signs that inspire faith*

Christian

Signs for

FAITH

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*Signs that inspire faith*

Christian

Signs for

FAITH

**Signs that indicate faith** 2

*Two points from John 21:1-14.*

- ✓ A sign of authentic Christian faith  
- **How does this challenge us?**
- ✓ The leadership structure of the church - **Was Peter the first Pope?**

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*John 21*

“<sup>15</sup> So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My lambs.”

<sup>16</sup> He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Shepherd My sheep.”

<sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Tend My sheep.””

4

- **The Greek text uses different words for “love”, “sheep”, and “tending”.**

|       | Jesus’Q | Peter’s A | Command        |
|-------|---------|-----------|----------------|
| vs.15 | agapao  | phileo    | feed lambs     |
| vs.16 | agapao  | phileo    | shepherd sheep |
| vs.17 | phileo  | phileo    | feed sheep     |

- The words are often used interchangeably.
- In Aramaic there is only one word for love.
- This is probably just an issue of style.
- The questions may not have all come at the same time.

5



## Observations

- Jesus manifests himself to his disciples after his resurrection by giving them a large catch of fish and then feeds them breakfast.
- Three times he asks Peter if he loves him - perhaps parallel to Peter's three denials (Jn. 18).
- He then asks him to feed his people (sheep).
- The "more than these" is not clear.
  - It could mean "more than the disciples"?
  - It could mean "more than the disciples do"?
  - It could mean "more than the fish"?

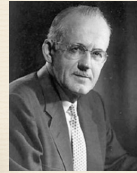
6

## Paraphrase

*"Do you love me more than the things I have given to or done for you?"*

## Implications

- ✓ Love for what Christ does for us can too easily replace our love for Christ.



"How many people would come to a church service where the only attraction was God - not the music, the sermon, creature comforts, friends, etc.?"

A.W. Tozer

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## Paraphrase

*"Do you love me more than the things I have given to or done for you?"*

## Implications

- ✓ Love for what Christ does for us can too easily replace our love for Christ.
- ✓ Love for Christ will be shown by how we use his gifts to us in serving others.
- ✓ We are to follow Christ's example, who came to serve, not be served.

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*Matthew 10:8*

"Freely you received, freely give."

*1 John 4:11*

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

*1 John 4:19*

"We love because he first loved us."

*1 John 3:16*

"We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

*Romans 12:1*

"Therefore I urge you, brethren by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God. which is your spiritual service of worship."

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## Philippians 2

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; <sup>4</sup> do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

<sup>5</sup> Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

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## Philippians 2

<sup>12</sup> So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."

## Paraphrase

*"Use the gift of life that God has given you, with all sincerity, realizing that you represent Christ through his Spirit to your generation."*

*Become the channel of God's answer to someone else's prayer.*

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*1 Corinthians 12:4-6*

“Now there are varieties of **gifts**, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of **ministries**, and the same Lord. And there are varieties of **effects**, but the same God who works all things in all persons.”

*1 Peter 4:11*

“Whoever **speaks**, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever **serves** is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies;”

12

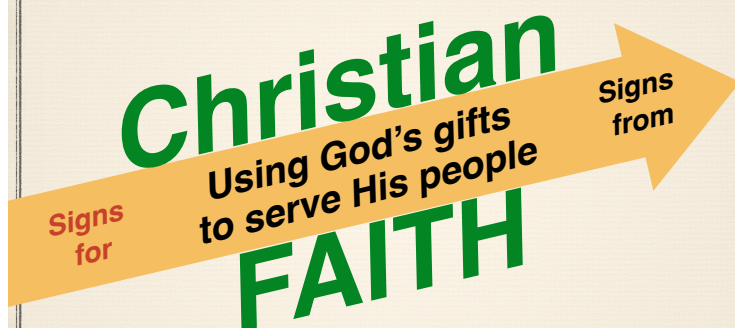
**Immanuel**

**Koinonia**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| God hears the cry of the poor.          | We are now His ears and hands.                  |
| God forgives penitent sinners.          | We experience this and demonstrate it.          |
| God answers prayers for help.           | Often through his people.                       |
| God assures us that we are never alone. | We provide a witness to this with our presence. |
| Christ is the light of the world.       | We are salt and light through his Spirit.       |

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**Signs that inspire faith**



**Signs that indicate faith**

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**Signs that indicate true faith.**

- ✓ **Outward identification with Christ**
  - ➔ confession of orthodox faith
  - ➔ water baptism
- ✓ **Inward changed direction in life.**
  - ➔ repentance (change of hope from self to Christ)
  - ➔ A sense of peace and assurance based on grace
- ✓ **Using God's gifts to us - for others.**
  - ➔ the proper use of talents, treasure, & time
  - ➔ bearing our cross (selfless sacrifice)

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✓ **Using God's gifts to us - for others.**

- ➔ the proper use of talents, treasure, & time
- ➔ bearing our cross (selfless sacrifice)

**Finding your place and doing your part.**

*Put your best foot forward without kicking your neighbor or losing your balance.*

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**Two points from John 21:1-14.**

- ✓ **A sign of authentic Christian faith**
  - **How does this challenge us.**
- ✓ **The leadership structure of the church - Was Peter the first Pope?**



17



## How did the early church respond to heresy?



## The rise of Episcopacy and Papacy in the Church

The Biblical period

Plurality of leadership in each church

33 100  
Elders (Bishops) Deacons

Singularity of leadership in each church

100 450  
Bishops Priests (elders) Deacons

A Singular leader over all the churches

500 present

Pope Bishops Priests Deacons

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## What was Peter's role in the church?

- ✓ In John 10 Jesus presents himself as the shepherd.
- ✓ In John 21 Jesus identifies Peter as the shepherd.
  - The authority of leadership was given to all the Apostles in *Matthew 18:18, John 20:23* (to Peter in *Matt.16:19*).  
“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers” *Ephesians 4:11*
  - The Apostles shared authority in the early church. (*Acts 15:1-23, Gal.2:1-14, 1 Pet.5:1-5*)
  - Peter, James & John were “pillars” in the Jerusalem church. (*Gal.2:9*)
  - The preeminence of the Bishop of Roman emerged in the 5th cent. (and even then was contested).

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“Why don't protestants bow to the Pope in Rome?

because they have a mini-pope in every congregation.”

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## Why should all Christians bow to the one true Pope?

because  
his name is  
**Jesus**

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*Ephesians 2:19-22*

“<sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, <sup>20</sup> having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;”

Jesus (corner stone) in his death and resurrection.

Apostles (foundation) explain the meaning of the cross and resurrection.

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