

Peter's Restoration  
John 21:15-19

Last Sunday: Come and Have Breakfast.

Today: Peter's Restoration—a restoration to public ministry.

Questions about Peter's restoration:

1. Where is Peter restored?
2. How is Peter restored?
3. How would Peter know there was a chance he could be restored?
4. Why is Christ only restoring Peter?

**21:15** - “Do you love me more than these?” Who or what are “these”?

1. These fish, boats, nets, fishing gear—the life of a fisherman in general.
2. These other disciples.
3. More than these fellow disciples love Christ. Mt. 26:33, “Peter answered him, ‘Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.’”

**21:16** - “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

There are two Greek verbs for love used in this section: ἀγαπάω (agapao) and φιλέω (phileo). The first two times Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him, he uses the term *agapao*. The third time Jesus uses the term *phileo*. Each time Peter responds, he uses the word *phileo*. Are the terms *agapao* and *phileo* helpful in determining what Jesus and Peter said?

1. Most of the time, *agape* refers to God's love for people or our love for Him, while *philos* is used for love between people. However, both terms are used interchangeably.
  - a. EX: God's love towards the Son (John 3:35, John 5:20); our love for the Lord (1 Cor. 16:22).
2. In the Septuagint (LXX, the Greek translation of the Old Testament), there is no consistent distinction between these two verbs for love.
  - a. EX: Jacob's love for Joseph uses both verbs; Amnon's “love” of Tamar?
3. *Agape* is not necessarily the godly word for love.
  - a. EX: Demas “loved” (*agapao*) this present world and deserted Paul (2 Tim. 4:10).
4. John likes to use synonyms in his writing.
5. They were not speaking Greek, but Aramaic (which has only one basic word for love).

**21:19**/ “Follow me.” Every time Peter answers that he loves him, what is Jesus' command?

- Pay for your sins?
- Wallow in your guilt?
- Drop out of church or of serving Christ?