

Love others- September 8, 2024

I. Introduction-

He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. Mathew 22:37

Genuine; being real, actually, authentic, not false, fake or counterfeit

Love; agapaō, unconditional, unselfish, sacrificial, unmerited, eternal, holy affection for another

All; Holos, all, whole, completely (100%)

II. Agapaō is a supernatural holy love that only comes from a holy God-

For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all. Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" Romans 11:32

Without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. Hebrews 11:6

Unsearchable; anexeraunētos, that cannot be searched out

Inscrutable; anexichniastos, that cannot be comprehended

A. God and His love are supernatural realities that God revealed to us-

We have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. I John 4:16

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38

Love; agapaō, unconditional, unselfish, sacrificial, unmerited, eternal, holy affection for another

Supernatural; relating to an order of existence beyond the visible observable universe

departing from what is usual or normal especially to transcend the laws of nature, of or relating to God, a spirit, or a devil

Abide; menō, to remain as one in place and time, to continue

B. God's supernatural love has been clearly demonstrated in our natural world-

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. Romans 5:8

"Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence." President John Adams,

C. God is the supernatural source of Agapaō-

<https://www.gotquestions.org/what-is-the-Trinity.html>

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. John 17:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory. Colossians 1:27

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5:5

the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Galatians 5:22

III. God's love is both inclusive and exclusive-

A. God's love for the world is inclusive-

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:16

God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. II Corinthians 5:19

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

B. Receiving God's love personally is exclusive-

1. God's love has to be received-

To all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12

Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Mathew 16:24

Receive; lambanō, to take upon one's self, to receive what is offered

If; ei, A primary particle of conditionality, requires an action or choice

2. God's love is exclusive and can only exist in holy people-

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear. Isaiah 59:1

You, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him. Colossians 1:19

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. II Corinthians 5:21

Holy, hagios, pure, morally blameless, consecrated, righteous

C. God's love radically changes fully devoted followers of Jesus-

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind (attitude) among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, - he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Philippians 2:3

You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. John 13:13

IV. Love our neighbor as we love ourselves-

You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. Mathew 22:37

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34

Love; agapaō, unconditional, unselfish, sacrificial, unmerited, eternal, holy affection for another

Neighbor; *plēsiōn*, according to Christ, any other man irrespective of nation or religion with whom we live or whom we chance to meet

All; Holos, all, whole, completely (100%)

A. Loving our neighbor demonstrates that Jesus is in us-

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him. I John 3:16

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. James 2:14

Why should we love our neighbor?

1. Our neighbor was created by God in His image-
2. Our neighbor unconditionally loved by God-
3. Jesus died personally for the sins of our neighbor-
4. Loving and serving others is the example Jesus gave us-
- 5 Loving and serving our is really loving and serving Jesus-

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' Mathew 25:21

B. The standard of love for others is how we love ourselves-

You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. Mathew 22:37

In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. Ephesians 5:28

whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. Mathew 7:12

To love and serve Jesus and others	MY GOAL	Self-actualization, realization and exultation
Accurate self-image- a fully devoted follower of Jesus	ESTEEM NEEDS	High self-esteem and love for myself
To grow in the love and knowledge of Jesus	LOVE AND BELONGING	To be secure in the love and respect of others
Trust Jesus with my life, and my future	SAFETY AND SECURITY NEEDS	To be physically secure and safe from all abuse
Trust in God to meet my needs	PHYSIOLOGICAL NEEDS	To have food and shelter security

C. Loving our enemy-

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.. Mathew 5:43 & 39

I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. Mathew 5:22

If you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Mathew 6:14

V. Application- Is loving winning in and through us?

