

Love

I. The fruit of God's love in our lives-

- The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control. Gal 2:22
- You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8

A. The importance of love-

- If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. I Cor 13:1

B. God's love is supernatural and opposite human love-

- Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends. I Cor 13:4

Love= (Agape) a holy, sacrificial, unchanging, selfless attitude that serves others without regard to cost to the lover. is unmerited, undeserved by the recipient

C. Warning: today as we talk about what love is, how we can have it in our live will confrontive and challenging to all of us-

- Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! 6 I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test. II Cor 13:5

II. God's love is demonstrated to the world-

- For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 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. Jn 3:16

A. God's love demonstrated at the death of Jesus on a cross-

- God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. Rom 5:8
- For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. Rom 3:22

Propitiation- appeasing or expiating of sin, to bring to a state of peace or quiet

- Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jn 20:26

B Jesus is the propitiation for our sins-

- For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. Rom 3:22

Faith: assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen

Repentance: to change one's mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past and present sins

C. We receive God's love by faith-

- Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Heb 11:1
- For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Eph 2:8

D. We are transformed by the love of God-

- By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17 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? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. I Jn 3:16
- 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. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. Mat 2:37
- You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. Mat 5:43
- We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. I Jn 4:19

III. The battle between our human desires and the desires of the Holy Spirit-

- I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. Gal 5:16

A. God's love lives in and through us because the Holy-

- If you love me, you will keep my commandments. Jn 14:15
- By this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him. I Jn 2:3

B. Human love of the flesh-

- The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? Jer 17:9
- For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. I Jn 1:16

Human love= selfish, prideful, seeks to control other and to have others serve us, Lust= a desire for what is forbidden

- Every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. 18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. Mat 7:17

C. Warning for 2021- Most people have been deceived by the god of this world-

- If our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. II Cor 4:3
- For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. II Tim 4:3

IV. The radical cross-

- 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. Gal 2:20
- Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Mat 16:24

A. The demands of the radical cross are foolishness to the world-

- For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. I Cor 1:18&23

1. We are required to admit and own our sins, our moral failures and our weaknesses-

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. I Jn 1:8

2. See that Jesus is only way for our sins to be paid for-

- Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Jn 14:6
- Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:11

B. God's love is shown to us and changes us at the cross of Jesus Christ-

- You, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. Col 2:13

C. Out of love for Jesus we flee from sin-

- No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. 8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. I Jn 3:6
- If we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, - How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? Heb 10:26

D. We seek to show love like Jesus showed His love to us-

- Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Phil 2:3

