

Message 6 in the Series: Just So You Know

Message: What's Love Got To Do With It

Text: 1 John 2:7-11

At first, the title of this message may bring to your mind a song made popular in 1984 by a well-known artist of her day. The lyrics penned in that song described love as merely a physical attraction. It is very common and unfortunate that some, if not many, mistake desire for love. This confusion has led to a lot of miserable marriages.

There is no greater experience than when people share a real love for one another. This is true for any relationship. To love others, and to be loved by others, is one, if not the greatest, experiences in life.

Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, set the standard for love pretty high.

**John 15:13 (NASB)** "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

This is His love for us. If we can only grasp it, believe it, and trust it.

God's has demonstrated His love to us, in that... (**Romans 5:8**) "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

In his epistle, John directs our attention to an important reality. That reality lies in this fact: **we did not love God first**. Meaning, our salvation was not initiated by our love for God. It was God's love that brought about His unspeakable gift toward us in the giving of His Son to be the "propitiation" for our sin.

Had God never sought us out, we would have never come to know Him. Consider these words of Jesus:

**John 6:44 (NASB)** "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him."

William "Bill" Newell of Savannah Ohio was a troubled and unruly teenager in the early 1900's. His father (who was a pastor) could do nothing with him. In a desperate attempt to rescue his son from a destructive life, he pleaded with the president of a very well-known, Christian school in Chicago, to enroll him as a student. Maybe, just maybe, they could help turn this boy around. However, the president responded saying, "We are not running a reform school!" This did not deter a desperate father. The school finally agreed to give the young man a chance. Later, the president of the school remarked, "I never saw a young man with more problems." However, through a faculty equipped with the love and truth of God, William "Bill" Newell's life was forever changed. One of his poems came to be a well-known hymn to the church.

*At Calvary*

*Years I spent in Vanity and pride caring not my Lord was crucified  
Knowing not it was for me He died on Calvary  
Mercy there was great, and grace was free. Pardon there was multiplied to me.  
There my Burdened soul found liberty at Calvary  
O the love that drew salvation's plan. O the grace that brought It Down to man.  
O the mighty gulf That God did span At Calvary  
Mercy there was great, and grace was free. Pardon there was multiplied to me.  
There my Burdened soul found liberty at Calvary*

What's love got to do with it? Everything!

God's love has brought about our salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. His love for us is perfect and pure unlike any other love the world has ever known. In fact, God's love, Agape love, is a divine love; it's not an emotion. Meaning, its humanly impossible to experience it, possess it, or share it with others, apart from a personal relationship with God.

This love, God's love, "has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us." **Romans 5:5 (NASB)**

Therefore, it is recognized by John as an identifier of God's children. It is the spiritual trademark of the true Christian.

**1 John 2:7-11 (NASB)** <sup>7</sup> *Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an **old commandment** which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard.* <sup>8</sup> *On the other hand, I am writing **a new commandment** to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.* <sup>9</sup> *The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now.* <sup>10</sup> *The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.* <sup>11</sup> *But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*

John reminds those in the church that love is a commandment, and that he understands that this commandment is very familiar to them. It is not the first time they have heard it.

Jesus was asked which of the commandments was the greatest or most important. He answered, "You shall love the lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." **Matthew 22:37-40 (NASB)**

The commandment concerning love had been given in word, but now it had been realized and shown in the life of Jesus Christ.

**John 13:34** "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

**1 John 2:8** – "*On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.*"

What's love got to do with it? Everything!

The greatest commandment, to love God and to love others, is to be fulfilled in us. We are able to realize this love for ourselves, and therefore we have the capacity to share it with others; especially to those of the household of faith – our brothers and sisters In Christ.

**1 John 2:9** "*The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now.*"

There is no hatred in the light! Hatred (along with all of its dirty cousins: bitterness, jealousy, envy, strife, malice, wrath, ect.), if allowed occupancy within one's heart, can evict the love of God or "Cause one to stumble." (to cause spiritual blindness leading to a snare for the soul)

**1 John 2:10-11** <sup>10</sup> *The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.* <sup>11</sup> *But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*

What's love got to do with it? Everything!

**Hebrews 12:15 (NASB)** See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many are defiled;

Love never fails (1 Corinthians 13:8)

Keep fervent (*intentional / intense / great force*) in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8 (NASB)

What's love got to do with it? Everything!