

Texts:

Matthew 22:37-38

1 John 4:8,19

1. What is love?

- A. Explain how there are multiple definitions
- B. This is a church and I am a pastor so we will go with Gods views
- C. Nothing I preach will ever be developed by AI or google, the word of God is our compass
- D. Gods definition of love is not the worlds definition of love
- E. The world says if it feels good, call it love
- F. Lust is not love, lust is perversion in the heart
- G. God is love, therefore sin cannot be love
- H. If it is sin, it isn't love, period.
- I. We often mistake love with passion. Passion comes from the heart and is very emotional, but it is not love
- J. Something that God calls an abomination cannot be love

2. Love, in its purest form, produces godliness

- A. To be like Jesus, to be like Jesus, on earth I long to be like Him
- B. So what is love? Who do we love? How do we love? Why do we love?
- C. Let's dive in

3. What is love?

- A. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 in the NKJV
- B. These verses describe the depth, importance, and power of love as well as exposing the myths, lies, and fabrications of love

3. 1 Corinthians 13:1

- A. Though I speak with tongues... immediately Paul goes after the praisers
- B. If I have not love, I become sounding brass or clanging cymbal
- C. It is someone “out of tune”
- D. In other words, I become obnoxious
- E. It is not a praise problem, it is a love problem
- F. You can think that you appear spiritual and in reality everyone else thinks you are obnoxious
- G. We absolutely need the Holy Ghost and must speak with tongues but, if we do not live by love, we are only impressing ourselves

4. 1 Corinthians 13:2

- A. Then he goes after the gifted, explain
- B. If I do not have love, I am nothing
- C. In the Greek it means, I am no one
- D. In other words, the gifts can convince us that we are important but love is what truly makes us valuable in Gods eyes

5. 1 Corinthians 13:3

- A. Then he goes after the sacrificial, explain
- B. If I do I not have love, it profits me nothing
- C. In other words, I can expect no return
- D. Quoting verses of provision to God about why He needs to come through does not trump our lack of love
- E. It is spiritual manipulation when we try to use Gods word against His word to get what we think we deserve
- F. 2 Corinthians 2:9... God loves a cheerful giver

6. 1 Corinthians 13:4

- A. Love suffers long and is kind
- B. In the Greek it means that love perseveres patiently and shows mildness
- C. Love does not envy. Love is not jealous
- D. Well I am just a jealous person, no you have love issues
- E. Love does not parade itself
- F. To make an employing rhetorical embellishments in extolling one's self excessively
- G. If we only talk about ourselves, we have love issues
- H. Is not puffed up
- I. Puffed up is inflated, proud

7. 1 Corinthians 13:5

- A. Love is not rude
- B. Rude is unbecoming or inappropriate
- C. Does not seek its own
- D. Seek is demand or require; in other words, love is not self serving
- E. If they demand a return for serving, they don't love you
- F. Love is not provoked or "irritated, to make angry"
- G. I just have a short fuse, no you have a love problem
- H. Love thinks no evil
- I. Thinks; reckon, calculate, count, compute
- J. Love is not suspicious

8. 1 Corinthians 13:6

- A. Love does not rejoice in iniquity
- B. Love is not happy with injustice; explain
- C. Love rejoices in truth, explain

9. 1 Corinthians 13:7

- A. Love bears all things
- B. Bears means to cover over with silence the faults and errors of others, to protect
- C. 1 Peter 4:8 says love covers a multitude of sins
- D. Love believes or has confidence in all things, it is not accusatory
- E. Love hopes all things, in short, love trusts. If you cannot trust, you cannot love
- F. Love endures all things; that means love remains, does not recede or flee

10. 1 Corinthians 13:8

- A. Love never fails
- B. Fails never loses or to perish
- C. Love cannot be killed

11. So how do I love God?

- A. With all thy heart
- B. Heart: the center of all physical and spiritual life, your passions, desires, appetites, affections, and purposes, your will and character
- C. Explain
- D. With all of thy soul ("psyche" in Greek)
- E. Soul: Breath, the seat of your feelings and desires. It is different than the body as it cannot be dissolved in death, explain
- F. With all your mind
- G. Mind: understanding, spirit, thoughts, thinking
- H. Jesus changed the word might in Deuteronomy 6:5 to mind in Matthew 22
- I. Might is exceeding, abundance, force
- J. Jesus is saying the strongest force is your mind
- K. We can attempt to love Him with our passions, with our feelings, and yet not with our thoughts

11. Closing: why do we love Him?

- A. Because He first loved us
- B. It is hard to not love someone who died for me
- C. Because we love Him, we desire to please Him, we obey Him
- D. There are things we do not do, because we love Him...
- E. There are places we do not go, because we love Him...
- F. Love has action behind it, it isn't cheap words
- G. If you love Him, prove it