

# AN ANATOMY OF LOVE

## OUR LIFE, OUR CALLING

May 29, 2022

1 Peter 1:22-25

Our Life/Calling = Standing Firm

This week...

Anger Good... then what?

Romans 12:21 - Overcome evil with good

Love our way out... but how?

### MLK QUOTE

We all think we know how,  
but Bible calls us to agape love sincerely/earnestly.  
How does this happen?

GOSPEL — — PRAXIS

Peter provides  
An Anatomy of Love

### 1 LOVE OUT OF PURITY

1 Peter 1:22 - *22Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart...*

#### The goal?

Love one another earnestly from a pure heart...

In order for this to happen,

**WE need to be different, not THEM.**

#### Imago Dei vs. Inherited Sin Nature

Our souls need to be purified;  
Peter is assuming this has happened

Jesus came to be sin,

that hidden in him we become righteousness.

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see God

#### Love vs. Manipulation

Being renewed shifts our heart  
from **US** to **THEM**.

**Selfish — — Selfless**

Why? Already received love!

**Abiding important**

If we don't keep receiving,  
We will get love elsewhere...

Jesus defined and showed us what love is.

**Access to Father /// Outpouring of Love**  
**IN HIM, WE GET THIS TOO**

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see God

Our love proves how we are with God/  
Our love does not prove ourselves to God

**Called to be helped with God's love/**  
**Called to love with God's help**

### 2 LOVE OUT OF POSITION

1 Peter 1:23-25a - *23...since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; 24for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, 25but the word of the Lord remains forever."*

**We are perishable naturally (flesh)**

Our selves and all we are will fade and wither

Life is long = no urgency

Life is short = hoarding/hedonism

**BUT**

**We are imperishable supernaturally (word)**

We have been born again  
through living/abiding **WORD (GOSPEL)**

This allows us to see ourselves rightly.

**We aren't just sanitized in purity.**  
**We are reborn**

We aren't just here to survive and thrive.  
We aren't just here to wait around for a reward.

**C.S. LEWIS QUOTE**

We must love in light of  
our place in eternity.

**One day we will see him face to face.**  
**One day we will lack nothing**

Until then, we are his image bearers.  
Until then, we are given glorious purpose,  
to love others and show God's grace in all  
humility and with joy.

**C.S. LEWIS QUOTE**

### 3 LOVE OUT OF POWER

1 Peter 1:25b - *25And this word is the good news that was preached to you.*

The gospel purifies (salvation) and humbles (growth)

If we allow this to take place in us,  
initially and regularly,

we will find that the gospel also gives us  
**the power we need to love like Jesus loves.**

**Romans 1:16-17**

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

**NOUWEN QUOTE**

THEY WILL KNOW BY LOVE

(1)

We are trying to love in our own power  
and for our own reasons.

(2)

We can't get along!

In a dark time, how will God's people be found?

**The world is crying out to experience and participate**  
**in true love.**

We have been given all power in our purity and our  
position.

May we heed the call to downward mobility  
and **love in the way he has called us to love.**

- Romans 12:21 - Do not <sup>be</sup> overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
- Martin Luther King, Jr., "Strength To Love" - One of the great tragedies of life is that men seldom bridge the gulf between practice and profession, between doing and saying. A persistent schizophrenia leaves so many of us tragically divided against ourselves. On the one hand, we proudly profess certain sublime and noble principles, but on the other hand, we sadly practice the very antithesis of these principles. How often are our lives characterized by a high blood pressure of creeds and an anemia of deeds! We talk eloquently about our commitment to the principles of Christianity, and yet our lives are saturated with the practices of paganism. We proclaim our devotion to democracy, but we sadly practice the very opposite of the democratic creed. We talk passionately about peace, and at the same time we assiduously prepare for war. We make our fervent plea for the high road of justice, and then we tread unflinchingly the low road of injustice. This strange dichotomy, this agonizing gulf between the ought and the is, represents the tragic theme of man's earthly pilgrimage.
- C.S. Lewis, "The Four Loves" - Man approaches God most nearly when he is in one sense least like God. For what can be more unlike than fullness and need, sovereignty and humility, righteousness and penitence, limitless power and a cry for help?
- C.S. Lewis, "The Four Loves" - It is easy to acknowledge, but almost impossible to realize for long, that we are mirrors whose brightness, if we are bright, is wholly derived from the sun that shines upon us.
- Henri Nouwen, "The Selfless Way of Christ" - The way of the cross, the downward mobility of God, becomes our way not because we try to imitate Jesus, but because we are transformed into living Christs by our relationship with his Spirit. The spiritual life is the life of the Spirit of Christ in us, a life that sets us free to be strong while weak, to be free while captive, to be joyful while in pain, to be rich while poor, to be on the downward way of salvation while living in the midst of an upwardly mobile society. Although this spiritual life may well seem enigmatic, intangible, and elusive to us who live in a scientific age, its fruits leave little doubt about the radical transformation it brings about. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness, and self-control are indeed the qualities of our Lord himself and reveal his presence in the midst of a world so torn apart by idolatry, envy, greed, sexual irresponsibility, war, and other sin (see Galatians 5:19-23). It is not hard to distinguish the upward pull of our world from the downward pull of Christ.