

# **Why Love, What Love**

***“The Christian ideal of love has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried.”***

**G.K. Chesterton**

**<sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>15</sup> But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.**

**Gal 5:13-15 NASB**

<sup>22</sup> The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; <sup>23</sup> I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

John 17:22-23 NASB

<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:34-35 NASB

<sup>15</sup> So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My lambs.” <sup>16</sup> He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Shepherd My sheep.”

John 21:15-17 NASB

<sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Tend My sheep.

John 21:15-17 NASB

<sup>3</sup> **‘Call to Me and I will answer you,  
and I will tell you great and mighty things,  
which you do not know.’**

**Jeremiah 33:3 NASB**

# Meaning and Purpose for Church life

*Matthew 28:19-20*

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,  
Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit  
Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you  
And lo I am with you even to the end of the age

## Being & Becoming

Fostering a hunger for relationship with God (*Perichoresis*)

Creating opportunities to have experiences and encounters with God's love

Acts of love (*agape and/or phileo*)

Be love: what does love look like and/or require of me

Discover heart motivations and reasons

Disciple

Learning to walk with God - in mystery  
through discovery  
for transformation  
to bear His image

## Doing & Outcomes

Ticking boxes to fulfil organisational and growth requirements

Providing religious goods and services

Acts of activity

Be right and fruitful: the nature of relationships functional and transactional.

Prescribe requirements and expectations of self and by others

Require of others

Trying to - belong, be significant and secure  
what is right and required for acceptance?  
creating counsellors of fear and anxiety  
*Colossians 3:12-14*

## *Accompanying notes:*

- These are before but not without juxtapositions that require conversation to build in the necessary nuances
- It is a matter of emphasis understanding we are to be known by love and fruitfulness
- This is a 'straw man' to stimulate discussion and discovery of language that can shape and form a movement

*“The Christian ideal of love has not been tried  
and wanting; it has been found difficult and  
left untried...”*

**G.K. Chesterton**

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the Lord,  
“Stand by the ways and see and ask for  
the ancient paths,  
Where the good way is, and walk in it;  
And you will find rest for your souls.  
But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’

Jeremiah 6:16 NASB