

Intimacy with Father, Son and Spirit in the Context of Eschatology

Session 3: Abiding in Love: The Ultimate Reality of the Kingdom Here On Earth

I. THE ULTIMATE REALITY

A. The Holy Spirit's first agenda is to establish the first commandment in first place in the Church. Jesus referred to Deuteronomy 6:5 and then defined loving God as the first commandment, thus identifying it as the highest priority to God and the first calling in our life and for every ministry.

*³⁷Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the first and great commandment."
(Mt. 22:37-38)*

B. We must realize that the command to love God does not begin with us. It is one of the many expressions of a Kingdom that existed long before the creation of the world.

God is love- wholehearted love (1 Jn 4:16). His very being is wholehearted love.

If we truly sit back and analyze that statement it brings many emotions, even emotions and thoughts "Am I crazy"because we cannot fathom the intensity and goodness of His love. Our perspective of life does not allow us to fully grasp the entire beauty of His love.

Which is why the immensity of His beauty will take forever (The ages and ages to come) because it is an unfathomable task to grasp the beauty of who the Father is.

C. In what we can muster, in all of our effort we must change our hearts and mind to see the first commandment in its eternal context as the primary foundation of the fellowship in the Godhead and not just as one of the many aspects.

Love is the primary, foundational aspect to the Father, Son and Spirit.

His desire is for us to respond in Love because it is who He is and who He created us to be.

D. Jesus' command to us to **Abide in Love**, is an invitation to experience the intensity of the same love that Jesus had for the Father, and the father has for Jesus. The love that God loves God with.

⁹"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love." (Jn. 15:9)

The truth of **abiding in love** is developed in Jn 13-17. Jesus breaks down the foundational nature of how He relates to the Father and shows us that we can do it too.

-The reason why Jesus spent so much time His last week in earth before the crucifixion

on this subject is because its absence is the breeding ground of unbelief.

It's the same issue the Corinthians had when Paul bluntly calls out their unbelief when it comes to the resurrection.

And Paul lays the ground work and reminds them of the gospel that was not of men. Then he blasts them in v.4 and tell them unless you believed in **vain**.

Vain in Greek is the word *i'-kay* which means inconsiderably without purpose, without just cause

And that was not the first time Paul laid that smackdown on the church, He did it in **Romans 13, Galatians 3 and 4** and in **1Cor 15**.

If we never spend time in understand the primary purpose of why Jesus would die and then resurrect. Resurrection alone is futile.

If it wasn't why don't we have "**Lazarites**" running around.

The only reason the Resurrection of Christ holds so much validity is because of the Love that exists in the fellowship of the Trinity that gives the resurrection of Jesus its validation.

So my telling you "that we must believe in our resurrection because Paul called Jesus the first fruits of the resurrection" fall on vain hearts if they do not understand the Love that the Godhead exchanged amongst themselves and how Jesus broke it down and said we were invited to experience the same.

Jesus primary heart intent the week prior to His death was to share the foundational love that He has with the Father and Spirit and invite/show us how we can partake in that relationship.

Jesus was giving the world the answer to the mystery before Paul told the whole world in his letters to the Ephesians saying, that the in the manifold wisdom of God was that He created the church to fellowship with him more intimately than any other creation and that through us because of that access His plan is and will unfold.

⁸To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; ¹⁰to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,

Fellowship in Greek- *koinōnia* , intercourse, fellowship, intimacy
intercourse - Exchange of thoughts or feelings

-Jesus was plainly explaining to the disciples the richest, gold yielding truth that He ever

proclaimed. In John 13-17, and its foundational message that the Love that existed before the creation of the world was available to us in intercourse (exchange of thoughts or feelings) in intimacy.....ultimately He just wanted us to dine with Him and He with us.

It's the whole premise of the 1st and great commandment, it's the identity He breathed in our lungs in Genesis 2 when "we were made in His image"

Jesus was explaining it to the disciples first, then Paul explained it to the world, It's the foundational core tenet of our faith to save us from living the **Vain Christian life!!!**

E. Out of this foundational truth the clarity of starts to set in:

1. God's Love for God is easy to understand.

¹⁰"Believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me...The Father who dwells in Me does the works. ¹¹Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me..." (Jn. 14:10-11)

2. God's Love For His People

⁹"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love." (Jn. 15:9)

3. Our Love for God

¹⁵"If you love Me, keep My commandments..." (Jn. 14:15)

4. Our Love for Ourselves

³⁹"And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Mt. 22:39)

5. Our Love for Others

¹²This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (Jn 15:12)

³⁹"...and the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Mt. 22:39)

F. Experiencing deep relationship with God is salvation

Jesus revealed that the essence of eternal life is to know God---this speaks of experiential knowledge; it is more than intellectual information. Salvation is an invitation to participate

in deep fellowship with the Godhead.

It is the why behind the what of creation and redemption. Salvation is so much more than escaping hell.

³“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ.” (Jn. 17:3)

The Call: Make it your primary life vision to participate in the ultimate reality of the kingdom, which is the ***fellowship of the burning heart.***