



LIVING FROM ABOVE

Session 6: Love from Above • Part 2

Pastor Dale Campbell

I. REVIEW & INTRODUCTION

A. Love From Above

1. There is a difference in this world's love and heaven's love.
2. God is love. (**1 John 4:8**)
3. Real love isn't that we love God, but that God loved us.
 - a. **1 John 4:9**
ESV "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. **In this is love**, not that we have loved God but that **he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**"

B. Agape Love

1. Agape love is the highest expression of biblical love.
2. It is God's kind of love—a love that chooses and seeks the highest good of another, regardless of feelings, circumstances, or the response it receives.

C. Receiving Love from Above

1. Before you can truly demonstrate God's love to others, you must first learn to receive and embrace the love God has for you.
2. **1 John 4:16 NKJV** "And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."

II. LOVE FOR OTHERS

While the Bible speaks much of God's love for us, it also has much to say about loving others.

A. Scriptures

1. **1 John 4:11-12**

ESV "Beloved, if God so loved **us**, **we also ought to love one another**. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and **his love is perfected in us.**"



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2. John 13:34-35

NKJV “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

3. John 15:12

NKJV “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

4. Romans 13:8

NKJV “Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.”

5. Ephesians 5:2

NKJV “And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *In various passages where Jesus commanded us to love one another He added the emphasis “...as I have loved you.”*

Other translations:

- “...the same way I have loved you.”
- “...as much as I have loved you.”

It is one thing to love others. It is another to love others as He loves!

B. Our Source of Love: Love from Above

1. In the natural sense, it isn’t within my capacity to love like Jesus loves. His love goes beyond natural human affection, emotion, or willpower.
2. A new commandment to love comes with a new source of love.
 - a. **Romans 5:5**

NKJV “Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”



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CEV “All of this happens because God has given us the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with his love.”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *When I was born again of the love of God, the Holy Spirit poured God’s love into my heart, not just for me, but so that I can love others with the same love that was given to me by Jesus. However, you will have to draw on THIS love that is given from above.*

If you try to love everyone with the natural source of love from this world you will come up short.

3. 1 John 3:14

NKJV “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love *his* brother abides in death.”

CEV “Our love for each other proves we have gone from death to life. But if you don’t love each other, you are still under the power of death.”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *This is the supernatural love of God that was given to us. From God for us. From God for others through us. Naturally, I cannot love like Jesus. But supernaturally, His love is in me, enabling me to love beyond my natural capacity.*

C. Points To Be Taken Regarding This Love from Above

1. God has placed His love in the heart of every believer.

- a. Jesus commands me to love with His love because He has already placed within me the capacity to do it.

2. We have become partakers of God’s nature—and His nature is to love.

a. 2 Peter 1:2-4

NKJV “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious



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promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.”

b. The divine nature is the nature, character, and life of God Himself. We have it!

3. The Holy Spirit is producing love within us.

a. **Galatians 5:22-23**

NKJV “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *I can expect all this fruit to be manifested through my life. Why? Because the Holy Spirit in me is always at work to bring forth these things—LOVE included.*

b. Love from above is learning to yield to the Holy Spirit and allow the love already deposited within us to govern our responses.

c. I can yield to the Holy Spirit within, or I can yield to my old self (the flesh). It is a choice.

4. Love for others flows from the love we have received.

a. **1 John 4:19**

NKJV “We love Him because He first loved us.”

(Note: many translations have omitted “Him” because it wasn’t included in original manuscripts.)

NIV “We love because he first loved us.”

NLT “We love each other because He loved us first.”

b. My ability to love comes from the love I have received from HIM.

5. Love from above is a choice and isn’t associated with feelings.

a. **Ephesians 5:2**

NKJV “And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

- Christ didn’t offer His love to us based upon a feeling. He chose to love us.
- God’s love is a choice.



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b. Deuteronomy 7:7-10

MSG “God wasn’t attracted to you and didn’t choose you because you were big and important—the fact is, there was almost nothing to you. He did it out of **sheer love**, keeping the promise he made to your ancestors. God stepped in and mightily bought you back out of that world of slavery, freed you from the iron grip of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know this: God, your God, is God indeed, a God you can depend upon. **He keeps his covenant of loyal love** with those who love him and observe his commandments for a thousand generations.”

- Just as God chooses to love, we can also choose to love, feeling it or not.

c. You don't have to FEEL loving before you can walk in love.

- You can choose to forgive.
- You can choose kindness.
- You can refuse retaliation.
- You can pray for those who mistreat you.

d. Matthew 5:44

NKJV “But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you...”

- You can do it—in Christ.

III. WHAT ABOUT THE DIFFICULT CASES?

A. Walking in the love of God does not mean becoming passive toward harmful behavior.

1. Biblical love can forgive while still establishing boundaries, confronting wrongdoing, and sometimes ending or limiting fellowship.
 - a. Love does not mean allowing abuse or mistreatment.
 - b. Jesus commanded us to love, but He did not teach us to continually submit ourselves to destructive behavior.
- c. **Matthew 10:14**

NKJV “And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet.”



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2. Forgiveness is not approval of behavior.
 - a. Sometimes a loving response is to distance yourself.
 - b. Sometimes it is saying “no”.

B. Love is Required—Fellowship is Not

1. Scriptures

a. Romans 16:17

NKJV “Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.”

CEV “My friends, I beg you to watch out for anyone who causes trouble and divides the church by refusing to do what all of you were taught. Stay away from them!”

b. 2 Thessalonians 3:6

NKJV “But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.”

c. Titus 3:10

NKJV “Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition...”

NLT “If people are causing divisions among you, give a first and second warning. After that, have nothing more to do with them.”

AMP “After a first and second warning reject a divisive man [who promotes heresy and causes dissension—ban him from your fellowship and have nothing more to do with him]...”

2. Love doesn’t always maintain fellowship.
 - a. Paul, the same Apostle that commanded us to love others, also acknowledged that love doesn’t force you to remain in fellowship with everyone—especially when fellowship becomes dangerous.



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3. Love and forgiveness don't immediately restore trust.
 - a. *"I love you. I forgive you. I want God's best for you. I refuse to hold bitterness against you. But wisdom requires that I no longer allow you the same access to my life."*
4. His love enables me to love others in a way that this world's love does not.
 - a. **Romans 5:5**
NKJV "Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."
 - b. **1 John 3:14**
NKJV "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death."

IV. THE LOVE OF GOD IN ME

1. Gives me the ability to love beyond natural affection.
 - Jesus said, *"love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you."* **Matthew 5:44 NKJV**
2. Changes how I respond when I'm mistreated.
 - Instead of allowing offense, bitterness, or retaliation to control you, agape provides another response.
 - *"Love...is not provoked, thinks no evil"* **1 Corinthians 13:5 NKJV**
3. Causes me to seek the good of others.
 - *"Love...does not seek its own"* **1 Corinthians 13:5 NKJV**
 - God's love moves you from *"What do I want?"* to *"What would benefit them?"*
4. Enables me to forgive.
 - **Ephesians 4:32** says, *"forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."*
 - God's love enables you to extend to others the mercy you have received.



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5. Enables me to speak truth without abandoning love.
 - Love isn't merely being agreeable.
 - *"Love...rejoices in the truth"* **1 Corinthians 13:6 NKJV**
 - God's love can correct, confront, and establish boundaries while still seeking another person's good.
6. Produces patience and kindness.
 - *"Love suffers long and is kind."* **1 Corinthians 13:4 NKJV**
 - The love within you changes not only what you do but how you do it.
7. Drives fear out of my relationship with God.
 - *"Perfect love casts out fear."* **1 John 4:18 NKJV**
 - As you become established in God's love for you, you no longer have to approach Him primarily through fear and insecurity.
8. Becomes visible evidence of Christ in my life.
 - Jesus said, *"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."* **John 13:35 NKJV**
9. The love of God in me gives me the capacity to respond to people the way God would respond, rather than simply reacting according to how they have treated me.