

Renewed pt. 3

January 24, 2021

A Renewed Love

WHEN SOMEONE LOVES SOMETHING, IT IS OBVIOUS

- “We love others best when we love God most.” (Idleman, 2011.)
- **Revelation 2:4** (ESV) But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.

My Thoughts-

A LOVE NEGLECTED IS A LOVE LOST

- **Matthew 26:69-75** ⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, “**You also were with Jesus** the Galilean.” ⁷⁰ But **he denied it** before them all, saying, “**I do not know what you mean.**” ⁷¹ And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “**This man was with Jesus** of Nazareth.” ⁷² And again **he denied it with an oath: “I do not know the man.”** ⁷³ After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly **you too are one of them**, for your accent betrays you.” ⁷⁴ Then **he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.”** And immediately the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

My Thoughts-

JESUS OFFERS US A SECOND CHANCE

- **John 21:15-17** When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you **Love¹** me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I **love²** you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶ He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you **LOVE¹** me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I **love²** you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you **love²** me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”
 1. **Agape** = the HIGHEST form of love. (**Sacrificial** love demonstrated on the Cross)
 2. **Phileo** = BROTHERLY love. (**Imperfect** but forgiving love existing between close friends.)
- SINCERE love is a love that has the ability to grow over time.
- There is no amount of BROKENNESS in our lives that can keep us from the love of God.

My Thoughts-

OUR LOVE FOR GOD CAN STILL WORK

1. **Create a special time and place to spend time with God.**
 - Choose a LOCATION that is free from distractions.
 - Choose a time and make an APPOINTMENT with God.
 - Choose a READING PLAN. (Read with us! Check out the App or www.manna.church.sanford)
2. **RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS.**
 - Express your love for God by BLESSING someone else. (Buy A stranger's lunch in the drive thru).
 - It is often through service of others that we RENEW our love for God as well.

My Response-

DISCUSS AND APPLY

1. In what way has your love for God impact your relationships with others?
Give a practical example.
2. Do you have a plan to keep your love for God fresh and alive?
3. What lessons have you learned reflecting on the Apostle Peter's life?
4. Can you think of a time when (like Peter) failure and shame created distance (in your heart/mind) with Christ?
5. Can you think of three ways (Random acts of Kindness) you might express God's love to others?