

What Kind Of Love?

I. Slide1 Announce:

A. Slide2 National Day of Prayer.

B. Prayer: We have all *pulled back curtains* in a dark room. If you do it slowly it lets light in a little at a time. Let's pull back the curtains on our Father's Love towards us

II. Slide3 Intro: What Kind Of Love?

A. St. Augustine said, "There are *some* so-called, *but aren't* what they are called."

1. Years ago in Haiti we hired a *watchman* to patrol the compound at night.
2. One night I heard *loud snoring*, definitely sounded like it was inside our house. I got up early and realize the snoring was coming from the front porch ... it was our *watchmen*.
3. What do you call a *watchman* who sleeps through the night? Well, I had a lot of things I wanted to call him ... *but watchman* was not one of them.
 - a) In the same way many are called *Christians*, *but* aren't found to be so in their actions. *Not in* their **lives**, *not in* their **practices**, their **faith**, their **hope**, *or* their **love**. [our *actions* are the 1st measure *that* we're in *relationship w/God*]

B. Our 1st love was *a Parental Love* - such an important foundation toward our understanding of love. *Yet* even if you didn't get to experience this *parental love*, the psalmist says in Ps.27:10, *Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close.*

1. *So* even better is **God's Love** - *who knows everything about you & still loves you anyway.*
 - a) Has God's love changed you? I know it has *saved* you, *but transformed* you?
2. Slide4a Human love is **object** oriented. God's love is **subject** oriented.
 - a) It's based on Him (His love). Which begs 2 questions: When did this love **begin**? *And* can it ever **end**?

- (1) Slide4b Begin? - *Did it start when you received Christ? Did it begin when you decided to be fully in? Nope.* Rom.5:8 *But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.* (b4 the foundations of the world)
- (2) Slide4c End? - Rom.8:35 msg *Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture.*

C. So what kind of Love is this?

III. Slide5a [1] IT'S ADOPTIVE LOVE (1,2a)

A. What kind of love? (remember singing, *Behold what manner of love ...*)

1. Lit. *what foreign kind of love, from what country, race or tribe, what far away realm.* (amazement)
2. John's saying, *I don't even know what country this love is from.*

B. Here is love ... in that we've been **adopted** into God's family. We're now called *the Kings kids*.

1. And note this privilege (our adoption) is *a direct gift of our heavenly Father*.

C. (1b) The reason why the world does not know us - of course they don't, our possession of a divine life is altogether hidden from the one who doesn't possess this experience.

D. It's not only ADOPTIVE Love ...

IV. Slide5b [2] IT'S LIKENESS LOVE (2b) [1st step in taking *a spiritual paternity test*]

A. We see this gift of **adoption** is really the giving of the gift of **Himself**, *we shall be like Him*.

1. This verse celebrates the accomplishment of God's eternal purpose concerning man. This purpose found its expression way back in Gen.1:26 *"Let Us make man in Our image, after Our Likeness."*
 2. He declares his intention of bringing into existence beings like Himself, as like Himself as it is possible for creatures to be like their Creator. (Boice)
- B. In grade school my teacher used to say, *put on your thinking caps*. Let's put on our *dreaming caps*.
1. *It is almost beyond our comprehension to think of anything higher than our present privilege of being children of God.*
 2. Slide5c The difference between the present & future is one of degree *rather than* kind.
 3. It will consist in our future **condition** *rather than* any change of **position**.
 - a) Illust: When you go through an International Adoption in a Developing country, the paper work takes place in that country. There the child becomes yours! But now bringing the child home (to the U.S.) their **condition** changes, but not their **position**. They cannot become *more* a part of your family ... they *are* family.
 - b) Now think of the *difference* of going from living in a Developing Country, to moving to a 1st World Country.
 - c) Now compare 1st World living to *1st Heaven living*.
 4. We shall be like Him ... glory & all! Col.3:4 *And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.*

C. It's not only ADOPTIVE Love & LIKENESS Love ...

V. Slide5d [3] IT'S PURIFYING LOVE (3)

A. Sonship must of necessity have *a practical result* ... Purity.

B. Everyone that possesses this hope fixed on **seeing & being** like Christ hereafter *will necessarily purify himself here & now.*

C. How pure? - Just *as He is pure* (again shoot for the bullseye).

D. It's not only ADOPTIVE Love & LIKENESS Love & PURIFYING Love ...

VI. Slide 5e [4] IT'S RIGHTEOUS LOVE (4-9) *Living Rightly*

A. Whoever commits sin (& continues to commit sin) is displayed in the tense (pres act part)

1. Whoever continues to practice sin habitually in their life.

B. (5) Here is another reason why **sin** cannot be admitted into the Christian life *Christ appeared to take away our sins.*

1. Slide 5f In Jn. 1:29 Jesus came to *take away the **sin** of the world* (the *root* of sin). *Here* (in vs. 5) Jesus came to *take away our **sins*** (the *fruit* of sin).

C. (7) **God Himself is righteous** & those who receive His life, *necessarily manifest the same feature.*

D. (8) Another reason Jesus came ... *to destroy the works of the devil.*

1. This is one of the aspects of **sin** that **needs constant attention.**

2. To commit wrong is not merely *to break a Divine law*, **but** to deny the **entire purpose of Christ's coming.**

a) If Christ was about *destroying the works of the devil*, what are we doing **rebuilding** the works of the devil, *by sinning?*

E. (4,6,9) **Does not sin** - we know what it doesn't mean (*see* 1:8)

1. **John is saying *practicing sin*** is no part of the Christians experience, **&** if anyone indulges this **habitual practice** (w/no repentance), it is clear proof that he has not seen Christ *nor had a personal or permanent experience of Him.*

2. **He cannot go on *living in sin.***

a) The assertion that a man who is truly **born of God** can at the same time **live in sin**, is ludicrous, as some false teachers were propagating in John's time.

F. It's not only ADOPTIVE Love & LIKENESS Love & PURIFYING Love & RIGHTEOUS Love ...

VII.Slide5g [5] IT'S FAMILY LOVE (10)

A. (10) Wow what an awful contrast between *children of God* & *children of the devil*.

1. How about a category "C"? Nope.
2. These were even our Masters words, *You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do.* (Jn.8:44)

B. The radical distinction between these 2 groups, consists in 2 great facts: *doing righteousness & loving your brother*.

1. The 1st test is **towards God**. The 2nd test is **towards man**.

C. *Children of the devil* are easy to spot, for *they act like their father*. In the same way it should be easy to identify *the Children of God* for *they practice the righteousness of their Father*.

1. Our **Lifestyle** Reveals Our Family Identity. **And** a Lifestyle Of Practicing Righteousness Involves, *Loving The Brethren*.

D. It's not only **ADOPTIVE Love & LIKENESS Love & PURIFYING Love & RIGHTEOUS Love** but also, **FAMILY Love**.

E. **Slide6** Frederick Martin Lehman, *Poem* - *Lyrics & Composer, 1868-1953*.

F. Could we with **ink** the **ocean** fill, And were the **skies** of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a **quill**, And every man a **scribe** by trade,
To write **the love of God** above, Would drain the ocean dry.

Nor could the **scroll** contain the whole, Though stretched **from sky to sky**.

1. The **1st 2 stanzas** are Lehman's own work, **but** this **third**, *by his own account, he heard in a camp meeting sermon*. They were apparently lines that had *"been found penciled on the wall of a patient's room in an insane asylum after he had been carried to his grave"*. They were words of a translation of an Aramaic poem, "*Haddamut*", written in 1050 by Rabbi Meir of Worms, Germany.
2. Take a few minutes to *Re-read this. Contemplate this. Meditate on this ...* as Dani comes up.

G. Keywords: love, adoptive, likeness, purifying, righteous, family.