

December 21, 2014

The Love Of God

Pastor Charles Mendenhall

At this time of the year, the birth of Jesus, it has been made manifest to us what God's purpose and plan for our lives is to be, the following scriptures show that His intent was to destroy the works of the enemy, that we might have life and have life more abundantly. God loved us so much that He gave His only Son in order for us to have everlasting life.

1 John 3:8 "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." KJV

John 10:10 "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." KJV

In Luke chapter 4, after coming from the wilderness and the temptations that the devil had placed before him, the word goes into detail about the ministry of Jesus, how He ministered healing and deliverance to the people, this being the reason for His coming to earth to undo the works of the devil.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." KJV

God so loved, that He gave His son to us. This is the heart of the Father which is in Jesus. Jesus being in us causes us to want to love. This season of the year causes us to want to give more because of what has been given to us. Giving gifts, showing appreciation and acts of kindness, we get this from the Father's heart. If we do not have the foundation of the love of God in our lives, we will be deficient in the area of giving. The God kind of love is always self sacrificing.

The following scriptures teach us how to learn to walk in love, the God kind of love, something that we need to pursue, we learn to do this, love is developed on the inside of us.

1 Cor 14:1 "Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy" KJV

1 Cor 14:1 "Eagerly pursue and seek to acquire [this] love [make it your aim, your great quest]; and earnestly desire *and* cultivate the spiritual endowments (gifts), especially that you may prophesy (interpret the divine will and purpose in inspired preaching and teaching)." AMP

1 Cor 14:1 "Go after a life of love as if your life depended on it—because it does. Give yourselves to the gifts God gives you. Most of all, try to proclaim his truth. If you praise him in the private language of tongues, God understands you but no one else does, for you are sharing intimacies just between you and him. But when you proclaim his truth in everyday speech, you're letting *others* in on the truth so that they can grow and be strong and experience his presence with you." MESSAGE

John became known as the "apostle" of love, he started out different than this, he was called one of the "sons of thunder", but learned how to love and grew in it. John teaches how love speaks,

what it thinks, how to act and to walk in love. He taught love especially in the later days of his ministry.

1 John 2:5 "But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him." KJV

1 John 4:12 "No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us." KJV

1 John 4:12 "My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and his love becomes complete in us—perfect love!" MESSAGE

2 John 1:6 "I can't tell you how happy I am to learn that many members of your congregation are diligent in living out the Truth, exactly as commanded by the Father. But permit me a reminder, friends, and this is not a new commandment but simply a repetition of our original and basic charter: that we love each other. Love means following his commandments, and his unifying commandment is that you conduct your lives in love. This is the first thing you heard, and nothing has changed." MESSAGE

2 John 1:6 "And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it" KJV

Paul is praying for the Philippians while he is in prison and the following is what he prayed for them. He has been treated badly but has not become bitter, he is writing the way love thinks and acts, he wants this kind of love to be developed in them with knowledge being in quality and quantity; there being different kinds of love that need to overflow. Everything works like a seed, it grows with a greater ability and love works in the same way. Learning to discern, or approve what is excellent or examine something.

Verse 12 - Paul says that the things that the enemy had meant to be bad, God had turned around for Paul's benefit and ended being good.

Phil 1:9-12 "And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; 10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ. 11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God. 12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;" KJV

People love in different ways. Love has the ability to discern or examine, and knows what is going on, Jesus did not give himself to all people, because He knew what was in their hearts. The God kind of love discerns motives, actions and knows what is going on so that we may be able to respond or know what to do. Being without offense. Excellence means to be able to stay with the program, bear through, and separate ourselves from something so that we don't take offense. Offense means to stumble and fall away from that which is true or depart. The God kind of love does not take offense, but we may encounter offenses as we go along, we must learn how to avoid them. Offense will cause someone to retaliate or get even; it almost always leads to sin by getting us out of love.

Phil 1:9-10 "And this I pray: that your love may abound yet more and more *and* extend to its fullest development in knowledge and all keen insight [that your love may display itself in greater depth of acquaintance and more comprehensive discernment], 10 So that you may surely learn to sense what is vital, *and*

approve and prize what is excellent *and* of real value [recognizing the highest and the best, and distinguishing the moral differences], and that you may be untainted *and* pure and unerring *and* blameless [so that with hearts sincere and certain and unsullied, you may approach] the day of Christ [not stumbling *nor* causing others to stumble]." AMP

Love displays action, kind words spoken, ways to serve others, learning to approve and prize what is excellent, with priorities.

How do we develop this kind of love? Begin by praying this scripture in Philippians and doing what the apostle John tells us to do in 1st and 2nd John. (repeated from above)

1 John 2:5 "But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him." KJV

Being a doer of the word of God, showing Him that we love him, beginning to develop His love in us. Showing forgiveness where needed, praying for them, walk in love, showing ourselves to being faithful. Getting along with others.

1 John 4:12 "No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us." KJV

1 John 4:12 "My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and his love becomes complete in us—perfect love!" MESSAGE

2 John 1:6 "I can't tell you how happy I am to learn that many members of your congregation are diligent in living out the Truth, exactly as commanded by the Father. But permit me a reminder, friends, and this is not a new commandment but simply a repetition of our original and basic charter: that we love each other. Love means following his commandments, and his unifying commandment is that you conduct your lives in love. This is the first thing you heard, and nothing has changed." MESSAGE

2 John 1:6 "And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it" KJV

The 3 principles of walking in love are; being a doer, getting along with others and not taking others offenses, just let it go.

In Corinthians chapter 12 we learn of the gifts of the spirit, chapter 13 is the love chapter and chapter 14 is the manifestations of the gifts. Faith, hope and love will always be forever, will never pass away.

Col 3:14 "And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." KJV

Col 3:14 "And above all these [put on] love and enfold yourselves with the bond of perfectness [which binds everything together completely in ideal harmony]." AMP

Love is like the mortar or the adhesive between bricks or cinder blocks; it will cause them to stick together, cannot be pushed over or blown over. This is what love does in relationships; we put on love as an act of our will. It is a choice that we make, either put love on or not, it may take awhile, but in the end will give us the power that it has. Perfectness means maturity or growth spiritually. Love is a mark of maturity.

Jude 20,21 "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, 21

Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." KJV

We each have a responsibility to keep ourselves in love, even Jesus cannot keep us in love. It is our choice. James tells us that walking in love is the royal law of the scripture and Paul tells us that love is the fulfilling of the law. The new law is walking in the love of God.

John 14:30-31 "I will not talk with you much more, for the prince (evil genius, ruler) of the world is coming. And he has no claim on Me. [He has nothing in common with Me; there is nothing in Me that belongs to him, and he has no power over Me.] 31 But [Satan is coming and] I do as the Father has commanded Me, so that the world may know (be convinced) that I love the Father and that I do only what the Father has instructed Me to do. [I act in full agreement with His orders.] Rise, let us go away from here." AMP

As we walk in love we are no longer in darkness, we are in the light and the enemy has no right to cause us to stumble, he has no power over us. Jesus kept Gods commandment to walk in love and that is what we are to do. We have nothing in common with the devil, we are champions, we are winners and we wear the victor's crown.