

February 28, 2016

The Love Of God #2
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We have been learning about love and the importance of walking in love. Love has many different perspectives than what we normally know about love.

Rom 5:5 "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." KJV

Luke 17:21 "Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." KJV

If you are born again, Gods love is in you. The challenge comes with learning how to allow the love of God to flow out of us. Many of us have had or still have, so much debris on the inside of us, from the past and have never dealt with it, that it stops the love of God from flowing out, causing us to allow all the bad debris; malice, ill will, hate and resentment to flow out under pressure instead of the love of God.

The kingdom of God is in each of us and has answers to everything that we might have need of, if we learn how to live by kingdom principles, learning to live these principles consistently can be a challenge.

1 John 4:7-8 "Beloved, let us love one another: *for love is of God*; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." KJV

In the body of Christ there are many good born again people who really do not know God and because they don't know God, they don't know what He is like. An example was given regarding a man whose father was a pastor and because the father had been so busy teaching others that he failed with his son in regards to knowing God. The son was always fearful that someone would recognize this and call him out, when it happened he was ministered to, told how much God loved him, was able to receive that love, and later in life had a ministry of his own. He didn't know God and didn't know that God loved him.

Where does the love of God come from? Many times we don't love because we don't know God, and if we don't know God, we don't know how to love. It is important to become acquainted with God, know His character, begin to know His ways. The children of Israel didn't know God, they knew His miracles, but Moses knew the ways of God. We may know of Gods miracles, but unless we know Him, we cannot know His love. It is never to late to receive the love of God. If we don't love, we don't know God.

1 Cor 14: 1 "Pursue [this] love [with eagerness, make it your goal], yet earnestly desire *and* cultivate the spiritual *gifts* [to be used by believers for the benefit of the church], but especially that you may prophesy [to foretell the future, to speak a new message from God to the people]." AMP

1 Cor 14:1 "Go after a life of love as if your life depended on it—because it does." MESSAGE

(A challenge was given previously for the congregation to read the following passage of scripture once a week for the month of March, many accepted this challenge.)

1 Cor 13:4-8 "Love endures with patience *and* serenity, love is kind *and* thoughtful, and is not jealous *or* envious; love does not brag and is not proud *or* arrogant. 5 It is not rude; it is not self-seeking, it is not provoked [nor overly sensitive and easily angered]; it does not take into account a wrong *endured*. 6 It does not rejoice at injustice, but rejoices with the truth [when right and truth prevail]. 7 Love bears all things [regardless of what comes], believes all things [looking for the best in each one], hopes all things [remaining steadfast during difficult times], endures all things [without weakening]. 8 Love never fails [it never fades nor ends]. But as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for the gift of special knowledge, it will pass away." AMP

v. 5 -Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

God's love is in us and the bible tells us that love grows, abounds and increases and is developed in us. How can something that God has given us already, be developed and grow? Our response is that love always has actions, but it must be followed by corresponding actions. We cannot say that we love someone unless corresponding actions can be seen by them, they won't believe us. There must always be outward actions with love. The love that is in us, it is God's love.

When we begin to get rid of the debris that is in us, and deal with all the stuff that is on the inside that has built up over the years and as love begins to start flowing through us in the different ways that are mentioned in 1 Corinthians 13, His love begins to flow outward through us. These different ways are like the colors of the rainbow shown through a prism, you cannot see love, God's love with the physical eyes but we see it manifested through the different attributes of others, how it acts or reacts towards people, situations or circumstances. We begin to understand how God's love is.

Gal 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." KJV

There are nine aspects of love listed in Corinthians 13 and they correspond completely with the nine fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5.

1 Cor 14: 1 "Pursue [this] love [with eagerness, make it your goal], yet earnestly desire *and* cultivate the spiritual *gifts* [to be used by believers for the benefit of the church], but especially that you may prophesy [to foretell the future, to speak a new message from God to the people]." AMP

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We are learning how to let the love of God flow out of us in different ways, how to let it grow up in us, we recognize that it doesn't happen overnight, we don't become perfect overnight, but it is a growing process like we grow in the natural.

Paul writes to the Thessalonians how pleased he is they are learning to walk in love.

1 Cor 13:4-8 "Love endures long *and* is patient and kind; love never is envious *nor* boils over with jealousy, is not boastful *or* vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. 5 It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) *and* does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights *or* its own way, *for* it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy *or* fretful *or* resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. 6 It does not rejoice at injustice *and* unrighteousness, but rejoices when right *and* truth prevail. 7 Love bears up under anything *and* everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it

endures everything [without weakening]. 8 Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]. As for prophecy (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), it will be fulfilled *and* pass away; as for tongues, they will be destroyed *and* cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away [it will lose its value and be superseded by truth]."AMP

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Additional meanings for verse 5 as interrupted by Henry Drummond in his book on love. Love suffereth long; is patient, kindness, generosity, not puffed up; humility, courteous, totally unselfish, has good temper, guileless, sincerity,

1 Cor 13:5 :Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;" KJV

v. 5 - *thinketh no evil* - a "greek" word, that has been taken from a bookkeeper term as being posted in a ledger with permanent ink, which was unable to remove or be blotted out. Love doesn't keep records with permanent ink of all the times we felt as though we were being mistreated. This does not mean that we won't think about it occasionally, but it doesn't bring the hurt and resentment that is associated with it.

We cannot allow ourselves to keep record of all those who have hurt us in the past, we must forgive and forget, we cannot try to find ways of getting even with them, we must drop it - let it go! We have to make a decision as to whether we will walk in love or not, regardless of what others may do. God will honor that decision and bless us.

When we want to look at an example of someone who walked in love, we look at Jesus, in the four gospels.

In our growing in love in relationships, God intends for us to make progress little by little, many times we come into relationships and take a step backwards, but Jesus never lost sight of what his mission was here on the earth. Hebrews 12 tells us that he knew where he was going and what his calling was and he did not allow the difficulties or challenges that came his way to distract him. When we make a decision to walk in love, we will have many opportunities for distractions. Jesus drove the money changers out of the temple, was he acting in love, of course he was. Jesus called hard-headed people hypocrites and vipers of snake, saying they couldn't hear the answer to their problem. Was he walking in love? He knew where he was headed, he handled rejection didn't allow it to distract him. This part of God's love, it is the **sterner** side of God's love, Gods love sets boundaries, God has boundaries for each of us. Why does He set boundaries? For our protection, He has set before us death and life, but wants us to chose life that we may live, if we cross over these boundaries, it will not go well for us. God's love for our benefit and safety gives us boundaries.

Heb 12:1-3 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him that

endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." KJV

Every choice that we make has an action or reaction to it. Right or wrong we are sowing a seed of which we will either reap corruption or life.

In our growth how do we keep moving forward and not take a step backwards in trying to work a relationship out? How do we continue growing in love with relationships of others as laid out in 1 Cor 13, it seems absolutely impossible. Love which is developed and we grow in, God makes possible.

In pursuit of the kingdom, we will never enjoy the benefits in the kingdom if we continue to step backwards. When we purpose to walk in love, the devil is not going to set idly by and let us do it easily. We get in the love of God, by being consistent in it, we will come up to a higher level and greater blessings. In relationships, regardless of who it is with, is just saying sorry enough? it is a great start to a second chance, being sorry and repenting however, are two different things. Reconcile, without repentance involved, that's fruit. Going back into a relationship without repentance, showing no fruit, is like taking a step backwards or taking another trip around the mountain like the children of Israel. In order for genuine reconciliation to work there must be total repentance, otherwise the same thing will be repeated, there needs to be fruit. Every repentance is based on fruit, every relationship is built on trust, without fruit there is nothing to build trust on, without trust in a relationship there can be no reconciliation. Sorry is not enough to reconcile or build a relationship on, you must see fruit or you will be taking a step backwards, yet at the same time we forgive, but in order for there to be trust, there must be fruit, we will forgive, but there must be a changed life. Love forgives and we must forgive, taking a step backwards does not mean that we are not walking in love.

Gen 13:6-15 "And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together. 7 And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land. 8 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. 9 Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left. 10 And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. 11 Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. 12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. 13 But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly. 14 And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: 15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever." KJV

Abraham had heard of the strife that was between his herdsmen and those of his nephew Lot and rather than have the strife, Abraham was willing to split off his herds, give Lot his choice of whatever land he desired and let him take all his possessions and move away. Lot chose the best for himself, leaving Abraham with what seemed to be left not so good, but God richly blessed Abraham. Lot found himself living in Sodom, which was destroyed because of the sin there, his wife died while leaving with him and their daughters and Lot ended up with nothing. Abraham had set Lot up originally. Abraham chose to walk in love, not get into strife.

When we chose to not walk in love, it allows the devil to come in and deception to take place and little by little to chisel away the blessings of God that are upon our lives. God will bless us for walking in love.

Eph 5:2 "And *walk in love*, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour." KJV

Eph 4:32 "And be ye **kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another**, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." KJV

God forgives us based on the supreme sacrifice that Jesus on the cross made for us, He does not forgive us based on our good merit or our good behavior, He forgives us based on what Jesus did for us. We don't always feel like forgiving, but we must forgive based on what Jesus did, if we are growing in love.