

August 12, 2018

## Love

Pastor Charles Mendenhall

We have been receiving teaching on not quitting or giving up, but finishing the goals set before us, we have been learning regarding offenses and being offended, now we are moving into the teaching of love and all that includes. Learning to walk in love is important for all believers.

1 Cor 13:13 "And now abideth faith, hope, \*charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." KJV

1 Cor 14:1 "Follow after \*charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy." KJV  
\*love the greatest of the gifts

Paul is teaching in both of these scriptures, learning to walk in love. Paul was not one who seemed to be walking in love, but John was known as the apostle of love. If love is the greatest of the gifts than why are believers not walking in love?

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." MESSAGE

Eagerly pursue the gift of love, learning to walk in love, the God kind of love in our lives.

1 Peter 3:8-10 "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be \*pitiful, be courteous: 9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. 10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:" KJV

\*pitiful means sympathy, being kind hearted, to do good

1 Peter 3:8-10 "Finally, all [of you] should be of one and the same mind (united in spirit),

sympathizing [with one another], loving [each other] as brethren [of one household], compassionate and courteous (tenderhearted and humble). 9 Never return evil for evil or insult for insult (scolding, tongue-lashing, berating), but on the contrary blessing [praying for their welfare, happiness, and protection, and truly pitying and loving them]. For know that to this you have been called, that you may yourselves inherit a blessing [from God—that you may obtain a blessing as heirs, bringing welfare and happiness and protection]. 10 For let him who wants to enjoy life and see good days [good—whether apparent or not] keep his tongue free from evil and his lips from guile (treachery, deceit)." AMP

v. 9 - Finally, all [of you] should be of one and the same mind (united in spirit), sympathizing [with one another], loving [each other] as brethren [of one household], compassionate and courteous (tenderhearted and humble).

Peter is writing to the body of Christ, the family of God and we see in this scripture the importance of developing love for others, in order that we will be able to receive a blessing. When we speak a blessing over someone else, we know that we too will receive a blessing, but we must not be offended or have offense working in our lives. It can be challenging to not want to justify ourselves when dealing with others, but part of walking in the God kind of love is to be humble, not letting pride cause a problem on how we respond to others. Being a blessing to others, if they will accept the kindness, is our responsibility.

1 Cor 13:8 "Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away." KJV

What is love? The love of God, when we are the kingdom of God, that love always works like a seed, that seed is always planted and then it grows. Paul is writing to the believers at Thessalonica, that their faith and love grows like a seed that has been planted. Love is developed and matured on the inside of us and it begins to grow, we can't see the plant of the seed but we see the growth. God's love is on the inside of us, it is there.

2 Thess 1:3 "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the \*charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;" KJV

\*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

We must nurture the love as it begins to grow and let it develop, as it begins to grow we see the outward manifestation or the fruit of love, if that love is not allowed to grow, we will see no manifestation even though the seed is there, it has to be developed in order for it to grow. This is how love works, the following scriptures show the outward manifestations, how love grows as it is growing on the inside of us. There are nine different manifestations of Gods love, we won't start showing all these different kinds of love right away, because it is a growing process.

John was known as the apostle of love, many had tried to kill him, but they were unable to do so. His was also known as the "Son of Thunder", he refused to deny Jesus, he gives the greatest revelation about love.

1 Cor 13:4-8 "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away." KJV

1 Cor 13:4-8 "If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love. Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, Doesn't have a swelled head, Doesn't force itself on others, Isn't always "me first," Doesn't fly off the handle, Doesn't keep score of the sins of others, Doesn't revel when others grovel, Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end. Love never dies" MESSAGE

1 Cor 13:4-8 "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it \*keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. 8 Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever!" NLT

\*v. 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. We are not to be holding on to the things that have happened to us in the past, release those who have hurt you, don't be holding on to anything bad, love forgives

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

Love is the greatest so seek or pursue love. Love was explained by a man named Drummond, that even though we can't see the love on the inside of us it is there. He explains it like this; patience-is love suffering long, kindness-being kind to others, generosity-doesn't envy or want what someone else has, being humble-don't have to be right all the time, it is more important to do right than be right, courtesy-see others needs, unselfish-don't have to have their own way, good temper-not easily provoked, gilllessness-takes no account of an evil, sincerity-rejoices not at unrighteousness. These are the actions that will flow out of the God kind of love.

James 2:8 "If indeed you [really] fulfill the \*royal Law in accordance with the Scripture, You shall love your neighbor as [you love] yourself, you do well." AMP

There is no higher law in the scripture than love. James teaches that if we will develop and walk in the love that is on the inside of us it is the fulfilling of the law.

Rom 13:8-10 "Keep out of debt and owe no man anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor [who practices loving others] has fulfilled the Law [relating to one's fellowmen, meeting all its requirements]. 9 The commandments, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet (have an evil desire), and any other commandment, are summed up in the single command, You shall love your neighbor as [you do] yourself. 10 Love does no wrong to one's neighbor [it never hurts anybody]. Therefore love meets all the requirements and is the fulfilling of the Law." AMP

We are in debt if we have quit loving, so we must develop love. Love always has actions and has fulfilled the law, we need to practice this love with someone that is a little challenging. Love is the greatest, doesn't keep track of wrongs that have been done.

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

Paul is writing to the Phippians that there would be an excessive amount of love from all the believers toward others, love grows and the more it grows, the more they will see the manifestations of that love, love has insight, there will be action, the seed on the inside is growing. Love discerns the motives of others, this kind of love is supernatural, this kind of love will keep us from being hurt. Jesus did not give Himself to some people because He knew their motives. This kind of love will tell us when to say no and when to say yes. This kind of love has supernatural discernment, enables us to know what needs to be done with hearts sincere as we approach the day of the Lord Jesus.

When we are walking in the love of God, we are walking in light. Getting out of love causes us to walk in darkness, which will cause us to stumble, getting into offense, causing us to fall away.

1 John 2:8-11 "Yet I am writing you a new commandment, which is true (is realized) in Him and in you, because the darkness (moral blindness) is clearing away and the true Light (the revelation of God in Christ) is already shining. 9 Whoever says he is in the Light and [yet] hates his brother [Christian, born-again child of God his Father] is in darkness even until now. 10 Whoever loves his brother [believer] abides (lives) in the Light, and in It or in him there is no occasion for stumbling or cause for error or sin. 11 But he who hates (detests, despises) his brother [in Christ] is in darkness and walking (living) in the dark; he is straying and does not perceive or know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes." AMP

The following scriptures show us what was ahead for the believers during the time of Jesus right before He went to Calvary, that satan was coming, but that satan had no power over Him. Jesus reminded them to put on love, love binds us together, it does not divide. As we learn to develop love, watering and keeping the weeds out of our garden spiritually, that love grows, we will see the outward manifestation of the God kind of love.

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

Col 3:14 "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

Love never fails, never becomes obsolete, never comes to an end. Love is the greatest of the gifts.