

Eternity Daily Bible Study

The Importance Of Love

Number: 02

Verses: 1 John 4:7-8

Topic: Love Proves That We Know God

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1 John 4:7-8 *Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; and everyone that loves has been born of God and knows God. (8) He that does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

There are 21 verses about "loving one another" in the New Testament and not a single verse about "loving one another" in the Old Testament. "Love one another" is the new commandment of the New Covenant and absolutely proves that we know and love God.

(BTW: The 21 "love one another" verses are: John 13:34, John 13:35, John 15:12, John 15:17, Romans 12:10, Romans 13:8, Galatians 5:13, Ephesians 4:2, 1 Thessalonians 3:12, 1 Thessalonians 4:9, 2 Thessalonians 1:3, Hebrews 10:24, 1 Peter 1:22, 1 Peter 4:8, 1 Peter 5:14, 1 John 3:11, 1 John 3:23, 1 John 4:7, 1 John 4:11, 1 John 4:12, 2 John 1:5)

Now lets look at the extreme claims made about agape love in 1 John 4:7,8:

- a) We are to *love one another* because love is of God
- b) Everyone that loves has been born of God
- c) Everyone that loves knows God
- d) He that does not love does not know God
- e) God is love

God is agape love, which is the very core of His being, and the motivation for His covenants, His mercy and faithfulness and His reason for sending Christ into the world to save you and I. This love is part of the Trinity. The Father is love, the Son is love and the Holy Spirit is love. [*Agape love is the new type of high, holy and selflessly obedient love that Jesus taught, lived and demonstrated. Agape is a Greek word for this love.*]

If we have true, selfless, caring agape love in our hearts then we are truly a new creation because we have God's nature implanted in us, His living seed, and we are putting on Christ (who is love) and are filled with the Holy Spirit whose first fruit is love.

Loving one another proves that we know God, love God and are Christ's disciples. Deep strenuous agape love is the sign of the true and holy saint of God. Love shows that we do not belong to this world because agape love is not found in the world (which is instead full of the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life 1 John 2:15-17).

If you have love, you have the Holy Spirit. If you don't have love you don't really have the Holy Spirit because love is the first of His fruit (Galatians 5:22,23) and without love you are nothing (1 Corinthians 13:1-4).

In fact the unloving, selfish and cold person is not a Christian, no matter how much he or she believes about God. If God is love, then if you don't have love, you surely don't have God. Thinking you have God, when you clearly don't have any love for others, is just self-delusion.

Religious zeal and doctrinal purity cannot replace the need for God's love in your heart! The Pharisees and Scribes and Sadducees had a deep belief in God, Judaism and the Bible but they were not saved and in fact "devoured widows' houses". They managed to completely memorize and study the Hebrew Old Testament and were zealous for its laws, and for their nation, without ever genuinely knowing God. Selfishness equals godlessness!

The Samaritan woman (John 4), on the other hand, found salvation because she willingly received God's love and straight away began to share that love with her village.

Corporate Christianity that works almost entirely by the rules of the business world, is flat-out apostasy. Frequently it is cold, heartless and bureaucratic. Agape love is personal and real and is incapable of being bureaucratic. The organization does not come before the person because organizations come and go but people are eternal souls beloved of God. The selfish, power-hungry "Christian leader" is going straight to Hell because he or she does not know God's love!

Christian leaders who accumulate vast amounts of power, wealth and the good things of this world unto themselves and who refuse to share them with their brothers and sisters in Christ who are in obvious need, do not know God's love:

(1 John 3:16,17) *By this we have come to know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives in behalf of our brothers. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother having need, and shuts off his compassion towards him, how does the love of God abide in him?*

You can have a Ph.D. in Theology and run a mega-church or missions agency and yet be totally and utterly lost if you think only of yourself and of your tasks and of your own success and have not love!

And its not just church leaders that I am talking about! If any so-called Christian goes to church and envies and hates everyone around him or her, then they do not have love. If they split churches, then they do not have love. If they just come and go and never make an effort to befriend anyone – then they do not have love.

The sign that you know and love God is if you have a new nature that belongs to the new "born-again" creation of God and that new nature is a truly loving nature. Mercy and kindness are more important than sabbath-keeping, tithing and theology (see Matthew 23). Christianity is not an institution. philosophy, a theology or a Sunday-morning ceremony, it is a new creation lifestyle of love!

Every time you have been disappointed with Church it is generally because of a lack of love, either on their part, or on your part.

A church full of sad, lonely people is a contradiction in terms! There is no real church

there if that is the case! Its a shell, a church in name only, because God's community is an agape love community and if its not an agape love community then its not God's community, because God is love!

Thus the Scriptures, and the very words of Jesus, call us to complete and total repentance from selfishness, materialism, greed and extreme individualism. We are called to immerse ourselves in loving community whether we like it or not, even a very small community such as our family and a few friends. You may be unable to find a truly loving church in your city. They may all be cold, dead or heretical. But you can bloom where you are planted by loving those around you, your family and your "brethren". You cannot let resentment and disappointment and failure hold you back.

Love is non-negotiable. If you reject love you reject the God who is love and are damned to Hell (which is why the selfish Pharisees were called sons of the Devil and sons of Hell).

If you are truly born of God and if you truly love God then you must love other people, even very flawed and difficult people. If God loves you, then you must love them.

Jesus' commandment to love one another is much more than just loving your neighbor. It is "love they neighbor", plus the power of the Holy Ghost, plus loving your brothers and sisters in Christ with great intensity.

Romans 8:29 tells us that God's plan for our lives is simply for us to be transformed into the image of His beloved Son – Who is pure love and pure holiness. Your manifest destiny is in Christ and is not in this world. You must love your destiny in Christ and forget about success in this world, because lusting after success in this world will make you competitive, ruthless, selfish and covetous and covetousness is idolatry.

I am calling you today to decide on love. To make love your choice and love your lifestyle and to make love your destiny because love is from God. The things of this world are passing away but the things that are from God abide forever, including faith, hope and love and the greatest of these is love. Open your heart to God's love!

Blessings,

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