

Eternity Daily Bible Study

The Importance Of Love

Number: 07

Verses: Romans 13;8-10, John 15:9-17

Topic: Love Is A Life Not A Law

Date: 26th July 2011

Romans 13:8-10 *Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves another has fulfilled the Law. (9) For: "Do not commit adultery; do not murder; do not steal; do not bear false witness; do not lust;" and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (10) Love works no ill to its neighbor, therefore love is the fulfilling of the Law.*

John 15:9-17 *As the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you; continue in My love. (10) If you keep My commandments, you shall abide in My love, even as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. (11) I have spoken these things to you so that My joy might remain in you and your joy might be full. (12) This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (13) No one has greater love than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. (14) You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. (15) No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master does. But I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. (16) You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatever you shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it to you. (17) These things I command you, that you love one another.*

You cannot legislate love. Legalism never produces love. Living up to "rules" never produces love. Indeed you can have total military or monastic discipline and not have love. In fact you can bust a boiler "trying to" love people out of sheer obedience and willpower and you will get absolutely nowhere at all!

Love is a life not a law. You cannot earn love (just ask any young man trying to impress a girl and yet failing miserably). You cannot make your parents love you, your wife or husband love you or anyone else love you and you cannot make God love you. Love is a FREE GIFT! And like any free gift it can be given or withheld. The untold misery of love withheld is the story of many lives!

But the good news is that God has not withheld His love but has freely bestowed it upon us. His love and forgiveness are absolutely free gifts! Here are a handful of very many verses that confirm this:

John 3:16-17 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (17) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him.*

Hosea 14:4 *I will heal their backslidings; I will love them freely; for My anger has turned away from him.*

Ephesians 2:4-9 *But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love with which He loved us (5) (even when we were dead in sins) has made us alive together with Christ (by grace you are saved), (6) and has raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus, (7) so that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (8) For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, (9) not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

Luke 7:42 *And they having nothing to pay, he freely forgave both...*

Romans 5:5-8 *And hope does not make us ashamed, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. (6) For we yet being without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. (7) For one will with difficulty die for a righteous one, yet perhaps one would even dare to die for a good one. (8) But God commends His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.*

Romans 8:35-37 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (36) As it is written, "For Your sake we are killed all the day long. We are counted as sheep of slaughter." (37) But in all these things we more than conquer through Him who loved us.*

Romans 5:18-21 *Therefore as by one offense sentence came on all men to condemnation, even so by the righteousness of One the free gift came to all men to justification of life. (19) For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of One shall many be made righteous. (20) But the Law entered so that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound, (21) so that as sin has reigned to death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Love, forgiveness, righteousness and eternal life are all absolutely free gifts!

We deserve death, we deserve lovelessness, we deserve rebuke, we deserve punishment, we deserve curses (from broken moral laws) and we deserve death and Hell – but instead God freely and instantly gives us eternal life without our having to earn it in any way, shape, or form!

Think of the thief on the cross. He had lived a violent and brutal life, as a robber he had probably beaten people to death, and even by his own confession he deserved death. At no point did he say he was framed or innocent or a basically decent human being. He was not saved because he underwent any religious ceremony of any kind. There is not one single good work attributed to that thief. But he was instantly, completely and gloriously saved to be with Jesus in Paradise – and on that same day!

Luke 23:40-43 *But answering, the other rebuked him, saying, Do you not fear God, since you are in the same condemnation. (41) And we indeed justly so, for we receive the due reward of our deeds, but this Man has done nothing amiss. (42) And he said to*

Jesus, Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom. (43) And Jesus said to him, Truly I say to you, Today you shall be with Me in Paradise.

For this man to be saved EVERYTHING has to be a free gift. His forgiveness was free and unearned, his salvation was free and unearned, his eternal life with Jesus in Paradise was free and unearned, the compassion and mercy of Christ upon him was free and unearned. A guilty man, without any natural or spiritual hope, who had no "place" on the Rabbinical spiritual ladder of progress in God, was found in Heaven by grace! The same or similar is true of Saul/Paul, the Samaritan woman at the well, and many others.

1 Timothy 1:15-16 *The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. (16) But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.*

Precisely nothing is earned 'by the works of the Law". The Law only results in condemnation and death (see Romans 7, and Galatians chapters 2 & 3). The Law does not bring justification or eternal life:

Galatians 2:16-21 *yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.(19) For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. (20) I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (21) I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.*

Love is an outcome of grace and is the result of a promise. Love does not flow from gritty obedience. Nor does love come from following some religious program. Love is a free and gracious gift that is poured out into our hearts by the promised Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5, Galatians 3:14, Ephesians 3:14-21).

Going back to the verses that we began this bible study with: Romans 13:8-10 tells us that love of neighbor fulfills and abolishes the Law. The law is over for you once you start loving people! Once you live in love you never have to think about a single rule ever again. You have done all that God commands – fully. That's what "fulfilling the Law" means!

Once we start living in love we move up a notch – to abiding in love, to receiving God's infinite and eternal love in Christ, and loving one another! We find this in John 15:9-17 and I urge you to read and reread those verses many, many times. They are a deep key to the new life that is to be found in Christ Jesus.

In this New Covenant we live in God's love. Its our home where we abide continually. Its not something we earn. Its a place where we dwell!

John 15:9,10 *As the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you; continue in My love. (10) If you keep My commandments, you shall abide in My love, even as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.*

Well what is the one simple commandment we have to keep in order to abide in God's love?

John 15:12-17 *This is **My commandment**, that you **love one another** as I have loved you. (13) No one has greater love than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. (14) You are My friends if you do whatever I command you..... These things **I command you**, that **you love one another**.*

Once we receive God's love we have to pass it forward. That's the rule. God loves us, and then we are to love others. If we keep this going, then we abide in God's love. When we do this one thing we obey the one commandment of the New Covenant – the command to love one another. Jesus gave many instructions and left many teachings but he gave only one commandment, one clear order for all Christians, and that was to love one another! But we love one another, not out of effort but out of grace. We love because God loved us first!

1 John 4:16-19 *So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (17) By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. (18) There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. (19) We love because he first loved us.*

So forget about all that religious stuff (the thief on the cross did not need it and neither do you) and start asking for God's freely given love, so that you in turn can freely "love one another".

Forget about church and bible studies and tithing and candles and incense and Christmas and Easter and priests and robes and pleasing the senior pastor or holding a church office. Without love they are nothing. Without love they will just curse your life with the curse of the law and cut you off from Christ (Galatians 5:1-11)!

Just hang out with God, believe in Jesus and start loving people. Love is a lifestyle not a law. You don't have to perform. You don't have to achieve a certain "love quota". You just have to abide in God's love by loving the brethren!

This is both very simple and very difficult and I confess that it has taken nearly 35 years of Christian living to get to this place. My path has taken me to every extreme of the religious journey, from jungles to committees and from pulpits to computers. None of that stuff works. Only loving people works.

As a final encouragement, if you want your prayers answered – love one another:

John 15:16, 17 *You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatever you shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it to you. These things I command you, that you love one another.*

Blessings,

John Edmiston (johned@aibi.ph)

Chairman/ CEO

AIBI/Cybermissions

www.globalchristians.org

www.cybermissions.org

www.eternitychristian.com

www.newtestamentprayer.org

[Donate to Cybermissions Via PayPal](#)

TO GET JOHN EDMISTON'S PRAYER NEWS: send a blank email to jednews-subscribe@yahogroups.com

You are receiving this email because you either subscribed on the website, or sent an email to the subscribe address. We do not subscribe people without their consent.

To subscribe - send a blank email to:

eternity-dbs-subscribe@globalchristians.org

To unsubscribe - send a blank email to:

eternity-dbs-unsubscribe@globalchristians.org