

LEARNING HOW TO LOVE

2/4/23

The love of God is much more than our version of love and is far bigger than feelings and expressions. Everyone craves love and longs to be loved. It is highly improbable that there is anyone on earth who would avoid love. We can be also sure there are lots of people that don't feel loveable. Perhaps they don't know how to love, and therefore, they feel unlovable themselves. Many relationships fail because one of the partners hasn't learned how to love or has never moved past romantic infatuation. We must first learn to love God, then ourselves and then learn to let it flow over into the lives of others.

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.

*John's scriptural promise of salvation is identified on the day of Pentecost... this is the summary after speaking in tongues was identified as the sign of receiving the Holy Spirit (salvation). **ACT 2:38** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

Romans 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.

*Once we are spirit filled... the great equaliser of all things, is fellowship with Godly service. **1COR 10:15** I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say. **16** The cup of blessing which we bless (give praise), is it not the communion (fellowship of love) of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion (fellowship of service) of the body of Christ? **17** For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread (fellowship of Godly servitude). Both of these verses are in the present tense... constantly now. **JOH 21:...** And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.*

*& **21** Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils (the way of the world): ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils. **22** Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger (more able) than he? We can't serve our natural desires and spiritual priorities at the same time... God will bless us more than we could ever achieve on our own, but only when we put him first. **MAT 6:33** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

1John 4:7 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.

*The value of loving service and fellowship. **PSA133:1** Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! (Unity is not an accident, but a lifelong action, just like marriage). **2** It is like the precious ointment (anointing) upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments (to the benefit all of Israel); **3** As the dew of Hermon ('devoted or sanctified'... Additionally, Hermon is a major source of the Jordan River. When the ice caps thaw, water from Hermon flows down to water the whole land), and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion (a refreshing in times of drought): for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.*

The need to learn how to love in a Godly context.

God's love is much more than emotional and romantic feelings.

TIT 2:3 The aged women (mature) likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; **4** That they may teach the young women to be sober (spiritually sensible), to love their husbands (this needs to be taught because it is much more than feelings), to love their children, **5** To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands (spiritual leadership), that the word of God be not blasphemed. There is a gender specific love required from both men and women: but the end result is the same.

The choices we make in life have consequences.

*A warning for Christians who won't learn, or who refuse to continue to serve. **JUDE 1:12** These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; **13** Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever. Eternal nothingness is the future for all who cannot learn to love as God loves.*

*The more I love you... the less I be loved? **2COR 12:15** And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.*

1PET 4:8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

*The summary of the law was making sure that your neighbour had his God given rites protected. **ROM 13:10** Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*

The Bible says that 'God is love'. It would seem only appropriate that He made us to love and be loved. When we were born, our parents 'fell in love' with us. Babies somehow just bring out the love within a person. It doesn't matter that they cry a lot, fill their nappies, and have to be fed. It's just the beauty of birth, the warm and tender feeling of holding your own child, that brings out the love in one's heart. The royal law is to love thy neighbour as thyself. If Christians would bypass arguments and revenge, and instead love the person who has done harm, then we would bear more fruit. Love is obedience to the whole law of God. So let us learn to love and let ourselves be loved.