

God Is...Love

September 16, 2007

Allow today's study to...

1. remind you of how God expresses his love for you!
2. give you ways to spot God's love in a crazy world
3. cause you to evaluate the way you love others
4. cause you to evaluate the way you let others love you

God is love. *1 John chapter 4 verses 8 & 16 (943)* - This is a statement of fact, not a definition!

When we study God's love, we see his heart

- Love is a characteristic of God, but is not God. God is also holy, a judge, wise, etc.

What is love?

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

1 Corinthians chapter 13 verses 4-7 (878)

Love wants the best

- ***...Perfect love expels all fear.*** *1 John chapter 4 verse 18 (943)*
- ***God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.*** *2 Timothy chapter 1 verse 7 (914)*
- ***God, I trust in Your unfailing love. I will rejoice because You have rescued me.***
Psalm 13 verse 5 (419)
- How many of my "love relationships" contain fear, manipulation & intimidation?
- Would those around me say that my love is more like the "unfailing love" of God or the intimidation & fear of a manipulator?
- As a result of today's talk, what will I do to fix them?

Love turns enemies into friends

- ***God made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. This includes you who were once far away from God. You were His enemies, separated from Him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now He has reconciled you to Himself through the death of Christ in His physical body.***
Colossians chapter 1 verses 20 - 22 (902)
- ***Jesus said, "Now you are My friends...."*** *John chapter 15 verse 15 (824)*
- ***Jesus said, "You are My friends if you do what I command."***
John chapter 15 verse 14 (824)
- I honor God's love by living this out in my life
- Does my love drive me towards "my enemies" in an effort to make peace with them?
- How much effort do I put out to be a "reconciler" in today's world?
- What do I separate over others about? What did Jesus separate from others about?

Love takes delight in its object

- ***For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you (be gleeful) with gladness. With His love, He will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you (dance!) with joyful songs.***
Zephaniah chapter 3 verse 17 (717)
- ***Listen, O daughter, consider and give ear: Forget your people and your father's house. The King is enthralled by your beauty; honor him, for he is your Lord.***
Psalm 45 verses 10 & 11 (NIV)
- ***Now listen, daughter, don't miss a word: forget your country, put your home behind you. Be here--the king is wild for you. Since he's your lord, adore him.***
Psalm 45 verses 10 & 11 (The Message)
- How much do I make a positive fuss over (Dance! Go wild over! Be gleeful!) those I love?
- How much do I continue to pursue & shower those I love with goodness?

Love speaks truth...even if it's uncomfortable

- ***Jesus said, "You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it."***
Matthew chapter 7 verses 13 & 14 (738)
- ***Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me."*** *John chapter 14 verse 6 (823)*
- Do I worship God as "truth teller & judge" or only as "God is love?"
- Do I love those around me enough to speak truth into their lives?
- What conversation do I need to have today with someone I love?
- How much do I talk to others about their need of Christ as Savior?

Love sacrifices itself

- ***Jesus said, "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends."***
John chapter 15 verse 13 (824)
- Love seeks the benefit of others at its own expense!
- ***This is real love - not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.*** *1 John chapter 4 verse 10 (943)*
- ***Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.***
1 John chapter 4 verse 11 (943)
- Love meets needs
- How much are my "love relationships" filled with getting my needs met as opposed to me meeting the needs of others?
- Each day, lovingly and without seeking recognition, do 10 (then 20, 30, 40 & more) acts of service for those around you

Next Sunday: God is...Judge