

2-5-23 God's Love Is The Greatest Love
GREATER LOVE HAS NO MAN THAN THIS

Intro: This is the time of the year when the world advertises ways to express our love for each other. People give a cards, flowers, or candy. A man takes his wife out to dinner. There is a lot of talk about love. Here are some interesting facts about the Valentine Holiday Season..

145 million greeting cards are exchanged every year for Valentine's Day.

About 20 percent of pet owners give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.

Over \$1 billion worth of chocolate is purchased for Valentine's Day.

The term "lovebirds" is often used to describe a couple in love, but it's also the common name for the Agapornis bird.

Teachers are the number one recipient of Valentines. One student who received a B- on a term paper, gave a valentine gift to his teacher that read BE MINE.. the teach wrote back it is still B-..

250 million roses are grown just for Valentine's Day!

Around 85% of Valentine's Day cards are bought by women.
About 75% of the money spent for Valentine's gifts is spent by men...

Americans spent over \$20 billion on Valentine's Day gifts in 2019 and were expected to Spend a record-breaking \$27.4 billion for 2020 - including \$2.4 billion on candy alone!

Men spend an average of \$291 compared to women spending about \$100

The category that we typically spend the most on for February 14 is jewelry, at a whopping \$5.8 billion in 2020!

The second most-paid-for gift on Valentine's Day 2020 was an evening out with \$4.3 billion, followed by clothing, candy and then flowers.

Conversational Heart candies are the most popular candies for Valentines but were not produced during Covid. 2019 -2020 The candy company Necco was sold and they were reintroduced in 2022 with new sayings.

This time of the year there is a lot of talk about love. But the fact is our society is not doing very well in that area. Especially in the area of marriages. The divorce rate is higher than ever and sad to say it is not doing any better with young Christian couples.

Here are the facts.

Just because you say I am a Christian, will not make your marriage any better if you do not have the right ingredients. Words are cheap. Commitment is the greatest ingredient.. Other ingredients include what God designed in marriages to work.. If young Christian's marriages don't work it is because people don't follow the design..

Good communication
Unity of purpose
Faithfulness in the marriage contract.. Commitment
Faithfulness to God..

Consider this, the world does not know how to love. The proof of that is what we are seeing in our marriages and society in general today.

The Bible says, I John 4:10 Herein is love not that we loved.... God but that he loved us.. He shows us how to love.

Today I want to share what we can learn about his love to help us love one another better.

TEXT

John 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

John 15:15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

I John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not [his] brother abideth in death.

I John 3:15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

I John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love [of God], because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down [our] lives for the brethren.

I John 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels [of compassion] from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

I John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

I John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins.

I John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

HEREIN IS LOVE THERE IS NO GREATER LOVE THAN GOD'S LOVE

I am going to take each verse of the song I wrote and share a principle about God's great love taken from the verse. So I would like you to look at the music.. Each point follows the verses... 5 verses 5 points..

1. *THERE IS NO GREATER LOVE THAN GOD'S LOVE – HIS LOVE IS BETTER THAN ANY FRIEND COULD GIVE*

No greater friend hath any man than this..

Who are people that become friends? People of common interests.. People who respect and admire one another.

The Bible says Jesus died for us while we were yet his enemy.. we had no common interest, we were unlikable, and there was nothing to be admired in us.

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Romans 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Romans 5:7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

Romans 5:8 But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

How many people have a friend that would dare die for them? A friend that would sacrifice for them?

I remember when I was first married, my wife and I were living in an apartment rent free. The condition was we had to help the landlord fix it up. We came to the point where we needed a carpet in the apartment. I had a friend (Bill he lived in Humeville) that got saved at a Bible study we had. When I told him we needed a carpet, he told me he had a carpet I could have. He said come over to my house. When I went to his house I saw him take up the carpet from his living room and give it to me. .. THAT IS A GOOD FRIEND..

I remember another friend who called me one day and said Frank what are you doing. I said, I was putting brakes on my car. He asked, would you like me to come over and help? I said, sure come on over. So he came over and pulled out a lawn chair and sat there while I worked and read a magazine.

Now which of these two were a better friend?

I say to you Jesus was yet better than both ... he gave his life for us..

2. *THERE IS NO GREATER LOVE THAN GOD'S LOVE BECAUSE IT COST HIM DEARLY TO LOVE US*

He came to Earth and became a man.. to fulfill God's eternal plan
He left his home in heaven high, to pay the sin of all mankind..

II Corinthians 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Philippians 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Philippians 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

There is never a person who was so rich that became so poor for us all....

This is the kind of love that we should imitate.. He teaches us to love..

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Every husband should love his wife like this....

I had a man come to me one time for help because his wife left him. She called him cheap. He said she accused him of loving his money more than her.

He had a big stash of cash and wanted to know if I would hold it for him. He was going to take a stack of fake money and burn it and tell his wife he loved her so much that he was willing to burn all his money for her. Meanwhile I was suppose to hold on to the real money.

You see most husbands pretend to love their wives.. but words are cheap. Actions speak louder than words.

Jesus left all the riches of heaven and became poor for us.. It cost him dearly to save us!

3. *THERE IS NO GREATER LOVE THAN GOD'S LOVE BECAUSE HE BORE OUR GREIFS AND SUFFERING*

We were a people in captivity; He lived a life of misery and grief
He bore our grief and suffered for us..

Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and **acquainted with grief:** and we hid as it were [our] faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Isaiah 53:4 Surely he hath **borne our griefs**, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and **afflicted**.

Isaiah 53:5 But he [was] wounded for our transgressions, [he was] bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace [was] upon him; and **with his stripes we are healed**.

Isaiah 53:10 Yet **it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put [him] to grief:** when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see [his] seed, he shall prolong [his] days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Jesus was called a suffering servant in Scripture....

He bore our sins.. He bore our grief.. With his stripes we are healed. His cuts on the cross healed our infirmities and sicknesses.. He died so we might live.

I had a Pastor friend (Dan Peters), who had another friend (Dan Kizer) who was dying. He needed a Kidney. My friend donated his Kidney to his friend so he could live... Now that is love. Yet Jesus' love is even greater..

He gave his life for us.. who were yet sinners and alienated from him..

He suffered.. he surrendered not a kidney but his very life.. He died so we might live.

4. THERE IS NO GREATER LOVE THAN GOD'S LOVE BECAUSE HE PURCHASED US OUT OF SIN AND TRANSLATED US INTO HIS KINGDOM

Verse 4 we read

...under a King an evil reign we were afflicted blind and lame.. defeating sin he set us free and now we're set at liberty. No greater love no greater friend hath any man..

Jesus had to come to this world on a mission. That mission was to set us free who were taken captive by Satan.. Sin had the victory over us. He came to set us free ..

Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated [us] into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Colossians 1:21 And **you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in [your] mind** by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

Colossians 1:22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

Satan works in the hearts and minds of people to blind them from the truth. The work that Jesus did on the cross can free us from this bondage.

II Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

II Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Jesus alone can break this bondage. Anyone who asks Jesus to come into their heart and life can be set free.

What you think affects how you live..

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so [is] he:

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

To know Jesus is to know the truth.

Jesus initiated and showed his love towards us in that he died for us.

I John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Now what more could anyone do but what he did to show he loves us. If any man does not reciprocate that love there is no hope for him.

I Corinthians 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

If a person does not accept Christ it is because they love being in bondage.

If a person does not accept Christ it is only because they love darkness rather than light..

If a person rejects our Lord's work and sacrifice for them .. it is only because they love their sin more than Christ and truth.

How sad that is that people would love darkness rather than light..

How sad it is that people would rather dwell in the Kingdom of Satan than the Kingdom of God..

Most of the time it is because they are comfortable in this world. Maybe through wealth .. popularity.. they have gained much in this temporal world. and are fearful of losing what they have gained in this life.

Why would someone trade this life for loss of a better life in eternity...
It is only because they will not believe the truth ..
They are fearful to believe the truth ..
They are comfortable in this world and love this present world.

This is why the Bible says,

I Corinthians 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, [are called]:

Matthew 19:23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 19:24 And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

Matthew 19:25 **When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?**

Matthew 19:26 But Jesus beheld [them], and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

II Corinthians 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (Think about the miracle of salvation..)

John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

John 3:20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

John 3:21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

5. THERE IS NO GRATER LOVE THAN GOD'S LOVE BECAUSE HIS LOVE IS ETERNAL AND HE HAS GIVEN US ETERNAL HOPE

He took our place on Earth, he died.. so we could meet on heavens side..
He offered up His holy life.. and for his bride He sacrificed
Eternal union he prepared He'll fly us home into the air
There is no greater love no greater friend hath any man..

All the love this world has to offer is temporal...

I John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

I John 2:16 For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

I John 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

God's Love is eternal

Jeremiah 31:3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, [saying], Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

Our Hope Is an Eternal Hope..

II Thessalonians 2:16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given [us] everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

II Thessalonians 2:17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also.

Titus 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

God's love is eternal...

He has prepared an eternal home for us with Him...

All that is in this world is temporal.. it is passing away.

The love God has for us, the promises of God are eternal.

We will dwell with him eternally if we love him and reciprocate his love for us.

Words can not describe eternity.. Paul said, he could not describe what he saw when he entered into the heavenlies..

II Corinthians 12:4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

If Paul who saw these things could not describe them how much less could I!

I Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

This is called our blessed hope. It is what we hope for.

No words could describe it..
No sermon could do it justice..

This is the love that God has for us. Will you receive this love?

We will dwell with him in eternity ... this is why when a person gets saved they are called part of the bride of Christ. When two people get married they move in and live in the same house. Jesus is preparing a house for us to live in.. We will live with him eternally.

Again, no words can describe how wonderful this will be. We must believe this by faith. If words could describe it or if we could see it .. it would not take faith to believe it and it would not be called our blessed hope.

Romans 8:24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

THINK ABOUT WHAT THIS VERSE SAYS.. I can not give you proof that what I preach is true. If I could it would not take faith to believe it. That which is seen does not take faith.

This is why the Pharisees committed the unpardonable sin. They saw the miracles of Christ and rejected them and accused him of doing miracles under the power of Satan. This was unforgivable. You cannot commit this sin.

So for you who are listening to this message there is hope that you will and can believe this message of hope. Give your heart to Christ while there is still time.

II Corinthians 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, **now [is] the accepted time; behold, now [is] the day of salvation.**)

Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord and receive his love that he demonstrated for them on the cross SHALL BE SAVED... This is the invitation he gives on this side of the grave to all the living! Will you receive him today?