

2-9-2020 GOD TEACHES US HOW TO LOVE

I John 4:6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

I John 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.

I John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

I John 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

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.

I John 4:12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

I John 4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

This is the time of the year when the World has a lot to say about love. Yet anyone that does not know God really does not know how to love. For the Bible says that God is love. So if you do not know the Lord than you really do not know how to love.

The greatest example of God's love is found in I John 4:10

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.

Jesus was the greatest manifestation of God's love. So when we look at what Jesus did for us, we get a better understanding of what God's love is all about.

This week we are talking a lot about love because Friday is Valentines Day. In fact I had an appointment at my store this Saturday and I couldn't believe the traffic around the mall. It seemed there was more traffic than some of the days leading up to Christmas. I said to my wife the only explanation is because this week is Valentines holiday week. So it seems a lot of people celebrate Valentines day and are out getting little gifts for their sweethearts this weekend.

With all the to do about love and Valentines Day, you would think people would know what love is all about. However, according to the Bible, the only true way to understand what it is to love is to know the Lord. For God is love and unless you know God you do not know how to love.

I John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

We could also say, if a person does not know God he does not know how to love. God teaches us how to love.

Now since the world is all wrapped up in talking about love, I thought it good this morning to share a message on the subject.

HOW GOD TEACHES US HOW TO LOVE.

I. GOD IS THE ONE THAT DEFINES WHAT TRUE LOVE IS ALL ABOUT.

1. The World's Standard of Love and God's Standard Are Opposites.

A. God's standard of love never violates the truth.

God's love never calls right wrong and wrong right.

The world would label many a preacher as being mean spirited because they thunder out the truth. For instance when a preacher preaches on the subject of hell, and tries to warn people about hell, many would declare him as being mean spirited. But when a liberal preacher tries to solace everyone into thinking they are ok no matter what they believe or how they live this preacher is declared to be a man who preaches love from the pulpit.

The truth is it is just the opposite.

Proverbs 27:5 Open rebuke is better than secret love.

Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

God's love is consistent with His truth, and Word.

B. Often what God says is love and what the world says is love are opposites.

Who is the standard for what love is? The world or God?

You cannot dichotomize God from His Word. The Bible reveals who God is.

We often hear people say, I can't believe a loving God would ever send anyone to hell. Again, here we have a person trying to tell God how to love.

Who is the standard?

Who defines love?

C. CONSIDER SOME EXAMPLES OF HOW LOVE, AS DEFINED BY THE WORLD, IS THE OPPOSITE OF LOVE AS DEFINED BY GOD

a. Consider what the world says about child discipline.

For instance, I heard a man once say I love my children to much to spank them. His son has never amounted to anything and has had a lot of trouble with the law. What that Father literally did is cripple his son for life.

Proverbs 13:24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

b. Consider what the world says about moral standards and restraining immorality in a nation.

In Numbers 25:1 there was a rebellion concerning moral standards in Israel. The men wanted to freely commit fornication with the women of Moab. It got so bad that a man actually flaunted his immoral behavior before Moses.

Numbers 25:6 And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Numbers 25:7 And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand;

Numbers 25:8 And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.

God called this immoral behavior a plague. Today there is a plague in the land as people practice fornication, adultery, and homosexuality. And no one is willing to restrain it.

In fact I have been saying it for years now, after you give the homosexuals the right to openly do what they are doing it is only a matter of time before people put two and two together and realize the only difference between a homosexual and a pedophile is the age of the participants. One sin leads to a great sin. Unrestrained sinners will magnify their perversions until there is no remedy.

So the world would call preachers like me, haters, mean spirited. The problem we have today, is that we have a plague in the land. When Phinehas took that spear in his hand and made an example of that man God did not say to him you were too hard on them. You shouldn't have done that. No, here is what God said,

Numbers 25:10 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Numbers 25:11 Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy.

Numbers 25:12 Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace:

Numbers 25:13 And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.

Look, right now we are worried about the Coronavirus. We are worried about this virus spreading, so the loving thing to do when someone is found to have this illness is to quarantine them and isolate them. This ought to be done with the plague of immorality.

c. Consider What The World Says About A Host Of Other Things That Contradict God's Word and Standards.

There are so many things that are written in the Bible that people consider to be mean spirited and unloving, yet if God commanded it, it is the loving thing to do.

The world considers **capital punishment** too cruel and unloving.

The Bible declares that it will restrain others from committing the same crimes.

The World considers so many things written in the Bible as being unloving, especially things written in the Old Testament.

Again what God says is good is good and what God says is love is love.

II. GOD TEACHES US TO LOVE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

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.

Herein is love.

The Bible says if you want to know what love is, look at Christ. He was the manifestation of God's love toward us.

1. GOD'S LOVE WAS NOT BASED ON US LOVING HIM, HIS LOVE WAS INITIATED FIRST.

We love him because He first loved us.

He came into this world to rescue us. God sent His son.

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 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

He came to us.

He initiated the act of love.

Men love others who are beneficial to them and helpful to them.
We love people that help us.
We love people who benefit us.
We love people who can do something for us.
People love others they are attracted to, etc.

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 commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Christ initiated His act of love towards us.

Our love is a selfish love.
His love is a selfless love.
Our love seeks our own benefit.
His love sought the benefit of others.

So before we knew what biblical love was and is, He had to come and show us and demonstrate the love of God to us.

2. JESUS DEMONSTRATED THE LOVE OF GOD BY HIS LIFE.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Jesus was the way to God..
Jesus was the a person of truth.

Herein is love. Christ is Love. Herein is Christ.

IF WE LOVE AS HE LOVED WHAT SHOULD WE LEARN ABOUT TRUE BIBLICAL LOVE?

BIBLICAL LOVE IS WRAPPED UP IN THE PERSON OF CHRIST, HE IS THE EXPRESSION OF GOD'S LOVE.

If God is Love. Christ is God in the Flesh.

Then when Jesus said He is the Way, the Truth and The Life, these characteristics define love.

A. GOD'S LOVE IS WRAPPED UP IN TRUTH. JESUS SAID HE WAS TRUTH. HEREIN IS LOVE, TRUE GODLY LOVE WILL BEAR WITNESS OF THE TRUTH.

The Bible describes Christ foremost as a person who came to testify of truth.

John 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.
John 18:38 Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.

Jesus described himself as the **WAY THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE**.

BEING FILLED WITH THE LOVE OF GOD WILL NOT MEAN THAT OTHERS WILL LOVE YOU, IN FACT DON'T BE SURPRISED IF THE OPPOSITE HAPPENS.

WE DO NOT THINK THAT PEOPLE WHO SPEAK TH TRUTH ARE VERY LOVING.

I believe that it was a person by the name of Valentine who was martyred for the truth, he would not acknowledge the pagan gods of Rome as being on a equal plane with the Lord Jesus.

Why are we surprised that when we have a love for Christ and the truth that others do not love us?

THE FIRST SERMON CHRIST PREACHED IN HIS HOME TOWN THEY SOUGHT TO KILL HIM.

Imagine how many 1st century Christians died because they would not compromise the truth. If they would just acknowledge the pagan gods as well as Christ. They would not have had to die.

The reason we are Baptists today is because there was a group of people who would not compromise the truth of baptism by immersion.

God is love. God is Truth. Christ is love. Christ is truth.
Yet Jesus said,

John 8:40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

John 8:45 And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

John 8:46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

John 8:47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

John 8:59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

God is love. Christ is love and yet some people hated Him.
Love rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth.

Is it loving to lie to people?

I had a fellow once say to me, "you're not one of those preachers who preach on hell are you?" In other words, that makes you a hell fire brimstone preacher and people conceive that you are unloving. LOVE BEARS WITNESS OF THE TRUTH.

How is it that it is a loving thing to let people go to hell just because they don't want to hear the truth?

Paul said in II Corinthians 5:14 that the love of Christ constrained him to preach.

He said, I Corinthians 9:16 woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

When I first heard the gospel, I said, if it was true what kind of person would I be if I did not try to tell everyone about the gospel? Yet not everyone wanted to hear me.

Love and truth are not opposites, they go hand in hand.

And if we have the love of God in our hearts we will love God and will love the truth.

B. JESUS IS LOVE BUT HE ALSO SAID HE WAS THE WAY, MEANING HE WAS OUR GREAT EXAMPLE AND GATEWAY TO GOD.

Isaiah 30:21 This is the way, walk ye in it,
JESUS IS THE WAY. The way is a path that we should walk.

It is one thing to preach the truth and it is quite another to live it!
A picture is worth a thousand words and Jesus didn't come to earth just to preach truth but to be a walking example of it. In Him men could see a perfect example of love, truth, righteousness etc.

He came to show us the way. He said himself that He was an example.

John 13:12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

John 13:13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

John 13:14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

John 13:15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

I John 3:13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

I John 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

I John 3:11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

I John 3:12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

I John 3:13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate 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.

True love will seek to do what is right.

PROOF OF YOUR LOVE IS THE WAY YOU LIVE, NOT JUST THE WAY YOU SPEAK.

Herein is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his son to not only bear witness of the truth but to be an example to the world of doing good and right. To be the way, show us the path to God, by His actions.

Why are we surprised that when we love as He loved many will not appreciate us for it.

Abel did right and suffered because of it.

If we love like the Bible says, don't be like Cain!

I John 3:12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

I John 3:13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

God is love and Christ manifested perfect love.

Jesus said that he not only came to testify of the truth but He also came to show us the true way to God and how to live!

This Jesus was incarnate love. God is love and Christ was the fulness of God manifest in the flesh. He was the communication of God to mankind.

YET CHRIST WAS HATED. Why would someone who was perfect love be hated so?

Why did Cain hate his brother and murder his brother?

Abel had no idea that Cain was going to kill him.
Abel did not even know that Cain was angry with him.
Cain hid his anger and didn't expose it to his brother.

I've had this happen to me, for no apparent reason all of a sudden someone gets upset at me. I scratch my head. Why are they so upset? Sometimes when you do right some people just get mad at you for no apparent reason, because it convicts them of their wrong.

Cain and Abel.

Genesis 4:8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

JUDAS BETRAYED THE LORD WITH A KISS. NO ONE KNEW HE WAS ANGRY AT THE LORD.

C. CHRIST IS LOVE, HE ALSO SAID HE WAS LIFE.

So God's love involves true life. The proof God loves us is that He gives us life. Sin and Satan brings death to mankind. The wages of sin is death!

He is the WAY THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE.

Jesus came to give us life. He became the propitiation for our sins and not our sins only but the sins of the whole world.

To know God is to know love, to receive Christ is to receive the way, the truth, and the life.

I. GOD DEFINES LOVE I John 4:10.

II. GOD SHOWS US HOW TO LOVE IN CHRIST, HE FIRST LOVED US. I John 4:19.

Finally.

III. WHEN WE RECEIVE CHRIST GOD GIVES US THE ABILITY TO LOVE LIKE HIM.

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.

I John 4:12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

I John 4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

I John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

I John 4:15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

I John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

I John 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

I John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

I John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

Think of what these verses are saying:

1. LOVE ORIGINATES WITH GOD AND WE DO NOT KNOW HOW TO LOVE APART FROM GOD!

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.

He loved us and came to earth to demonstrate that love and win us back to Himself in salvation.

2. AFTER WE RECEIVE HIS PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS WE NOW WILL LOVE EACH OTHER.

This becomes the proof that we received His love, His propitiation, and His salvation for our sins.

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

I John 4:12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

I John 4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

When God dwells in us, love dwells in us. God gives us His spirit and His Spirit is the Spirit of Christ and love. Christ is love, God is love, and when we receive Him we now know how to love as He loved.

The greatest evidence that we are true children of God is that God gives us a new spirit. That spirit is the indwelling spirit of Christ who teaches us to love as He loves.

3. WHEN WE GET SAVED, CHRIST DWELLS IN OUR HEARTS AND GOD WHO LOVES, TEACHES US TO LOVE AS HE LOVES.

I John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

I John 4:15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

I John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

I John 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

I John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

I John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

We love Him because He first loved us.

We love the brethren because He dwells in us and teaches us how to love our brother.

I don't understand people who say they are saved but hate God's people. Someone may say, they don't hate God's people but here is what they do:

- a. **They don't like being with God's people.**
- b. **They do harm to God's people.**
- c. **They speak evil of God's people.**
- d. **They betray God's people and do them harm.**

Did Judas love Jesus? He betrayed him with a kiss. How sad it is that I keep hearing people say they think Judas Iscariot is in Heaven. This is how perverted people's understanding of love is. Judas was not saved, he was called the son of perdition. Perdition means:

"...a state of eternal punishment and damnation into which a sinful and unpenitent person passes after death..." Webster Dictionary

Why was Judas the son of perdition? It was because he was a murderer! He betrayed the Lord. He did so because the Lord rebuked him about his thievery. He was stealing money and thought the Lord knew it. Which He did, and he let the devil fill his evil heart. What made it worse was he conspired against the Lord. Just like Cain conspired against Abel. These kind of people are hypocrites, they harbor bitterness and pretend to be your friend. They smile and pretend to want to shake your hand, all the while they are conspiring against you.

I John 3:11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

I John 3:12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

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

Conclusion:

How confused the world is about this matter of love. If you are not born again of the Spirit of God, you cannot love as God said you should love. God teaches us to love. How often we see the peoples of this world claiming to love and then a short time later their love turns to hate.

So confused the world is concerning what love is that they would even magnify Satan's crowd as being capable and qualified to love.

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.

This is love.
God is love.
Christ is love.

When we receive Christ we now know how to love!

Have you receive Christ? The proof is in your love for the brethren!

1 John 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?