

A PERFECT LOVE 3-6-16

I John 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

I John 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

I John 2:5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

I John 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

1John 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.

1John 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.

A PERFECT LOVE

A few weeks back I preached a message entitled a perfect hatred.. Our text was this:

Psalms 139:21 Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee?

Psalms 139:22 I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.

In that message I shared the harsh reality that those who are the enemies of God will be our enemies also. And in this spiritual battle there is such a thing as perfect hatred. A righteous disdain for evil and those who perpetuate evil.

I am sorry but there are some things we are to hate.

There are some things that we need to be angry about..

There are even some people you cannot be nice to..

There is no nice way to fight a war and win.. and there is indeed a spiritual war going on..

But now I want to balance that message with another aspect of God.. and that is God's perfect love that we are to have.

Only God is perfect and in God we see a perfect balance of love and justice..
His wrath, and His forbearance.

We can say that God is love..
We can also say that God is just..

The one attribute does not negate the other. But a love that is not just is not a perfect love.. a justice that is not loving is not justice.

I. GOD'S PERFECT LOVE IS WHAT SATISFIES GOD'S PERFECT JUSTICE

A perfect love is God's love .. and when the Bible talks about God's love the greatest example it gives of God demonstrating that love is when He satisfied his justice by sending His son to be a payment for our sins..

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.

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

How do we know what love is..

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.

People who think they are showing love by circumventing justice and equity are not like God..

Example: Those who oppose capital punishment think they are doing the loving and kind thing. No.. Think how many crimes have been committed, how many murders have taken place because the criminals today do not fear the consequences of their actions. Is that love? You can argue all you want but the command an eye for an eye .. was given to government not to the individual. Jesus said avenge not yourself. But Paul said of the government,

ROM 13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

The magistrate is commissioned to restrain evil in society and the best way to do that is to dish out justice and punish those who do evil and reward those who do good. When the government fails to do that it fails to do its job!

Is it love, to not stop someone who will do harm to others when it is in your power to stop them?

When it talks about God's love the Bible points to the cross and says look how God showed His love.. He sent His son to make payment for the sins of the world.

But wait... why must there be a payment? The reason there must be a payment is because men have violated God's law and the wages of sin is....

DEATH

Well who is the One that said that...

The One who said that is God..

So what came first.. our plight for violating God's law... which brings His wrath..

OR

His manifestation of love which provided a just and equitable solution to make a payment for that violation.

NO ONE CAN UNDERSTAND GOD'S LOVE UNTIL THEY UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS TO BE IDICTED FOR COMMITTING SIN AND INIQUITY.. The value of salvation is only recognized by the plight of our sense of condemnation. As uncomfortable as conviction is, it is instrumental to salvation. So a society that removes the 10 commandments from public arena because it causes many people to feel uncomfortable removes the value of the offer of God's love and forgiveness.

Jesus put it this way.

Luke 7:37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

Luke 7:38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

Luke 7:39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

Luke 7:40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

Luke 7:41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

Luke 7:42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

Luke 7:43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

Luke 7:44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.

Luke 7:45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

Luke 7:46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

Luke 7:47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

Luke 7:48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

Look according to our Lord's illustration of the creditor, the one who truly understands the depths of God love is the one who understands the gravity of their helpless sinful condition.

Those who do not see themselves and others as sinners deserving the wrath of God.. who do not see they are rightly called the enemy of God.. who do not see they are deserving punishment.. Those who do not understand Justice and equity can never understand God's love. Throughout the Bible, God's love is always demonstrated by His redemption plan not this false idea that He gives mankind a blank check to continue in sin!

A perfect love is shown in God forgiving our sins by taking the punishment of sins through Jesus Christ our Lord. So my last message explains how there can be such a thing as a perfect hatred for sin. An abhorrence of evil.

No one can accept that love if they do not understand the plight of sin!

The fellow who thinks it a little thing to forgive his sin.. will have little value for the love of God..

The one who realizes their lost and desolate condition will appreciate the LOVE OF GOD.. Because to whom much is forgiven the same loveth much. Today in our humanistic society there is nothing to forgive, so there is no basis for the love of God. So we just print up this worthless money called love.. and there is nothing to back it up! So there is much rhetoric about love but it is not a perfect love. The love preached today is a flawed imperfect love. Modern love is love adrift and has no meaning. It is flawed, it is imperfect. So last week the message I preached is essential to the understanding of love. Unless we understand what God hates how can we understand how great His love is? Because we have been delivered from the camp of His enemy and have now become His beloved. Who does that? He did, through His Son Jesus Christ.

II. A PERFECT LOVE IS TO SEEK TO BE OBEDIENT TO GOD'S WORD AND COMMANDMENTS

I John 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

I John 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

I John 2:5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

I John 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

Since God is love .. those who have a perfect love will love God
And those who love God will want to keep His commandments..

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

The reason there is such a thing as perfect hatred is because there is a war going on, and in that war the enemy (SATAN) is seeking to destroy everyone that he can.. So we can perfectly hate evil like we said in our last sermon!

God's love is that Christ rescued us from this great enemy.. SATAN

Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;
Hebrews 2:15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

That is love.. he rescued us.. That is how He showed His love towards us!
He sacrificed for us..
He did what we could not do..

Now.. is it love to deny that this great evil is a reality in our world..

Will we say everything is great when it is not.. is that love?
Will we say that there are no injustices in this world..is that love?
Look, because we have rejected the Lord our world is in chaos..

Environment is a mess.. In climate weather.. Ice, Cold, Heat.. drought..
Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Storms etc ..

Our health situation is a mess.. Disease, cancer, heart attacks, etc.. you name it..
Who has a back problem, who has diabetic problem, heart problems, etc?

Our nation is adrift, or economy is bankrupt, our political arena is splintered, and everyone is crying let us love one another. This is what God wants, yes he does but how can we when we do not understand what love is?

We need to understand the reality of the repercussions of sin before we understand the solution for why we suffer in this life. The Psalmist declares that God is angry at us:

Psalms 90:7 For we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled.
Psalms 90:8 Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.
Psalms 90:9 For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.
Psalms 90:10 The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.
Psalms 90:11 Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.
Psalms 90:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

This is a reality - you cannot know God's love until you realize and accept that we have brought all this on ourselves because we have rejected God and His Word. The Atheist and Agnostic look at the harsh realities of the world and mockingly say "AHA LOOK AT THIS!!! HERE IS PROOF THERE IS NO GOD!" Where is the LOVE?

I look at the same and say ... look at this .. this is what we get for rejecting God and His Word! Here is the proof that God's Word is true! And with all His disdain for sin, God still loved us and is willing to give us another chance through His son Jesus Christ.

BUT NOW.. Herein is love..

A perfect love.. is that God sent His son to earth and He took upon himself the full brunt of the penalty for our sin, on the cross.

THIS IS PERFECT LOVE, IT IS PERFECT BECAUSE IT SATSFIED THE RIGHTEOUS DEMANDS OF OUR SINS. But there is no value to the Love without understanding what we did to deserve God's anger.

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 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

A person who rejects that men are sinners will never be able to understand God's love.. They in return will never know love. They in turn will never know how to love.

Now how is it that anyone can say they are a person who loves, yet they themselves do not love God's Word and understand how God showed His love to us!

Love is of God, for God is love!
Can you love apart from God?

His love for us is based on His reaching down and rescuing us from the repercussions of our sin in salvation.

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD.. IN THAT HE SENT HIS SON TO PAY FOR OUR SINS..

HOW IS IT WE SINNED? WE SINNED BY DISOBEYING GOD'S WORD WHICH BRINGS DEATH..

HOW CAN WE CAN CLAIM A PERSON IS LOVING, WHO STILL PROPAGATES DISOBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD AND LOVES SIN?

Why do people die? IT IS BECAUSE THEY DISOBEYED GOD'S WORD & SINNED
Why Are their Tornados? IT IS BECAUSE MEN DISOBEYED GOD'S WORD & SINNED
Why is their cancer? IT IS BECAUSE MEN DISOBEYED GOD'S WORD & SINNED
Why is their war and discord? IT IS BECAUSE MEN HAVE DISOBEYED GOD'S WORD & SINNED

According to the Bible when sin entered into this world then all the negative elements that are hated of mankind also entered the world!

THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH AND ALONG WITH DEATH ARE ALL THE THINGS THAT PROMOTE DEATH AND CAUSE DEATH!

Thorns and thistles... IT IS BECAUSE MEN HAVE DISOBEYED GOD'S WORD & SINNED
Labor and Pain... IT IS BECAUSE MEN HAVE DISOBEYED GOD'S WORD & SINNED

WHAT IS PERFECT LOVE? IT IS TO HAVE A DISDAIN FOR ALL THESE EVILS, LOVE GOD'S WORD, AND ULTIMATELY GOD WHO WILL RESTORE THIS WORLD IN HIS ETERNAL KINGDOM. "Thy Kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.. " Yet today we do not see His will being done on earth ..

If disobedience to God's word is what produces all the sorrows.. we should then hate.. yes hate sin and in turn hate to disobey God's Word.

If a person says I love cancer what would you say?

If a person said they love disease what would you say?

If a person says they love war what would you think?

Yet we think people liberal people who make light of God's word are loving people?

AND WE THINK PREACHERS ARE MEAN SPIRITED FOR TELLING PEOPLE WHAT GOD'S WORD SAYS...

Perfect love is to love God's Word and Seek To Obey it..

I. A PERFECT LOVE IS TO SATISFY GOD'S JUSTICE, WHICH JESUS DID.. ON THE CROSS

II. A PERFECT LOVE IS TO LOVE GOD'S WORD ... IF YOU LOVE ME KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS

III. A PERFECT LOVE WILL DO GOOD FOR HIS FELLOW MAN..

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.

None of us know how to love..

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

God's love is perfected in us when we love one another.

The Bible.. gives us clear commandments on how to deal with each other..

If you love me keep my commandments!

Read I Corinthians 13: it clearly gives and differentiates the characteristics of love..

Love:

SUFFERETH LONG

IS KIND

ENVIETH NOT

VAUTETH NOT ITSELF

IS NOT PUFFED UP

NOT UNSEEMLY

SEEKETH NOT HER OWN

NOT EASILY PROVOKED

THINKETH NO EVIL

REJOICETH NOT IN INQUITY

REJOICETH IN THE TRUTH

BEARETH BELIEVETH HOPETH ALL THINGS

ENDURETH ALL THINGS TOO..

NOW ABIDETH FAITH AND HOPE AND CHARITY THESE THREE..

BUT THE GREATEST IS LOVE OR CHARITY..

Just plug these in when dealing with your fellow man.. and you will be a person of Love!

I 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?

I John 4:21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

Can you love God and not love your fellow man..

But now you say.. preacher .. if you say you love like this how can you justify capital punishment..

LOVE REJOICETH IN THE TRUTH.. GOD'S WORD IS TRUTH .. GOD SAID IT IS THE MOST LOVING THING TO DO TO PROTECT OUR SOCIETY FROM EVIL..

Love rejoiceth not in iniquity and evil..

Those who manifest biblical love will be a blessing to others and society in general..
THIS IS A PERFECT LOVE.. IT IS TO LOVE LIKE GOD LOVED!

In the name of love and tolerance, people are rejoicing in iniquity .. and call that love. No that is not love! It is a false love.. it is a bankrupt corrupt love.

In the name of love and tolerance we call good evil and evil good - is that love?

Today the thing that is evil are people who call certain behavior evil. As we learned last week the experts don't even use the word evil anymore. How much less does the world believe in sin.. In fact I tried to get Siri to just dictate the word sinner by itself and she refused. I got

send herbs,
center,
send her,
Simmer,

The biblical word sinner is no longer in our modern vocabulary.. Nothing is sin.. Homosexuality is not sin.. lying is not a sin.. adultery is no longer a sin.. Using God's name in vain is not a sin.. So to say Christ came to pay for the sins of the world? What does that mean? And to say this is how God showed us His love what does that mean?

IV. A PERFECT LOVE SEEKS TO PLEASE GOD FIRST AND NOT MAN

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.

If you do what you do to please God and not man.. you will have boldness in the day of judgment..

WHY DO YOU DO THE THINGS YOU DO?

Do you do it to receive a reward of men?
Or

Do you do it to please God in the day of judgment?!

Do you do what you do to please God?

Or

Do you do what you do to please men?

If you are doing it for God no man can get you to stop doing it..

If you are doing it for men.. than when men no longer reward you and in fact fight against you you will stop doing it.. You will cower to the whims of men!

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.

This is what is to be a Christian. To be like Him in this world..

As He is so are we in this world!

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT IS LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART..

AND THEN IF YOU LOVE GOD..

YOU WILL THEN LOVE YOUR FELLOW MAN!

IV. A PERFECT LOVE EMBOLDENS GOD'S PEOPLE TO OBEY HIM!

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.

Perfect love casteth out fear!

Hebrews 13:6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

What is the main reason people do not obey God?

What is the main reason people do not do what God wants them to do?

IS IT NOT THAT THEY FEAR HOW MEN WILL REACT?

A Perfect love cast out fear!

What are the fears that love conquers?

FEARS OF MEN THAT WOULD LEAD US TO COMPROMISE OUR SPIRITUAL STANDS FOR THE LORD

People accuse preachers of being hateful people when they preach about sin..

When a preacher preaches against sin people say he is mean spirited..

When a preacher warns people about judgment and hell he is called mean!

Worst of all when a preacher preaches there is a literal hell .. he is a fire and brimstone preacher

The truth is, it is just the opposite, those who fear to tell the truth, who are not bold to tell the truth, are the ones who do not have the love of God..

PERFECT LOVE CASTS OUT THE FEAR THAT WE MIGHT HAVE TO TELL THE TRUTH
TO PREACH THE TRUTH...
TO SHARE THE TRUTH !

Perfect love casteth out FEAR! Fear hath torment!

What fears will perfect love cast out?

FEARS OF LOSS OF GAIN IN THIS WORLD, FEAR THAT LEADS TO COMPROMISE.

PERFECT LOVE WILL CAST OUR FEAR OF WHAT MAN CAN DO TO US TO PRESSURE
US TO DISOBEY GOD.

PERFECT LOVE WILL CAST OUT FEAR OF DYING, FOR NOT KNOWING WHERE OUR
SOULS WILL GO AFTER DEATH .. WE CAN TRUST HIM EVEN THROUGH THE VALLEY
OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH!

Think about it. what is the greatest threat any man can receive? Is it not for our physical lives?
If we can conquer this, our greatest fear, there is nothing that can separate us from the love of
Christ..

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or
persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Romans 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as
sheep for the slaughter.

Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Romans 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor
powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Romans 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from
the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THIS IS A PERFECT LOVE..

Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and
strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our
brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their
testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

If you will love the Lord your God with this type of perfect love..

This would even conquer your fear of death itself..

This is indeed a perfect love!

This is the love that Christ had for us.. HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE

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

THIS IS A PERFECT LOVE.. A PERFECT LOVE..
A PERFECT LOVE..

This perfect love satisfied God's perfect Justice..

This does not contradict the message I preached a few weeks ago concerning how the psalmist could say he had a perfect hatred! There is a perfect hatred.. but there is also a perfect love. Greater than that perfect hatred is the perfect love that God has for us, which will triumph over sin and all the things that we have a perfect hatred for!

In fact all these lovey dovey wishy washy people who stand for nothing have a false love which is promoting death. Was it not the devil that whispered in Eve's ear saying.. "Who is God to tell you what to do.. disobey Him and you will be liberated, you will be equal with God.. you will determine for yourself right or wrong.. you won't die! Everything will be great."

So mankind bit into that lie and where are we now? We still have the serpents of this world promoting the same lie. They say everything is good, we can be liberated from the morality of the Bible, lets redefine marriage, lets redefine life, lets redefine equity judgment justice and liberty, everything will be all right! And they promote all this in the name of LOVE! But it is not a perfect love. It is not the love of God .. and it will not work.

The world does not know how to love!

God is love and He defines what love is.. and in fact we could not know love apart from Him showing us His love! God defines a perfect love

God shows this love in all its splendor in His son Jesus Christ..

NOW IF WE WANT TO LOVE, WE SHOULD DO AS HE DID..

And don't be surprised if the world rejects you for being like Him..

1John 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.

Will you have this perfect love? To have this perfect love you need to receive Christ as your perfect savior. But to receive Him as your savior you need to see how lost you are and realize what He did to save you.. It is for your sin that He had to die for.. your sin nailed Him to the cross, and He took your place, died for you and arose again proving He was who He said He was. If you receive Him you will have the promise of eternal life, new life and He will show you how to have this perfect love that He had. Receive Him today.