

## THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT LOVE

### 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** No one can read the Bible without discovering how much it has to say about love. There is God's kind of love then there is human love, God's love toward people, people's love to one another (natural love) and then there is love of people toward God. God's love to mankind is expressed in so many ways with His grace being a most visible way. Every person needs to prayerfully and carefully read God's Word and learn about Love.

#### 1. Reading God's Word, one sees the great importance of Christian love.

- The Word teaches that a Christian can know and talk about spiritual things but if he/she does not have love, then what he/she has to say is empty.
- **"...By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another..." (John 13:35)**
  - Love is the symbol, the badge of being like Christ.
  - Love tests the genuineness of one's profession of faith in the Lord Jesus.
    - One cannot love the Lord Jesus unless he/she loves those belonging to Jesus for they are all one family.
  - The Holy Spirit produces a supernatural grace in the hearts of true believers in the Lord Jesus which results in love for one another.

#### 2. Reading God's Word, one learns how to detect true love from pretend or false love.

- Unsaved people call human sentimentality and carnal feelings spiritual love.
- Sadly, some Christians live so far from being like Christ that they confuse false love with true spiritual love.
- True, many people are generous, kind and even loving, but it is still very different from the spiritual love Christians should exhibit, the kind of love that the Lord Jesus Christ has.
- Today in many homes, discipline is withheld when needed under the mistaken notion that punishing their children is not a sign of love and that "love" is more important.
  - How many children have grown up to be spoiled and troublesome because of a lack of correction out of love in their home life?
- The Bible teaches that God chastises His own Children out of His love and concern for their good.

#### 3. Reading God's Word, one learns about the true nature of Christian love.

- Christian love is the love of God that comes from the Holy Spirit living within that person.
- Christian love is the kind of love that wants only the best for others.
- Christian love is an abiding, lasting love.
- Jesus' kind of love (Christian love) is benevolent, thoughtful, gentle, unselfish, self-sacrificing, patient and unchanging, yet it can be stern, even angry.
- Spiritual love is holy, faithful to God and uncompromising toward all that is sinful, evil.

#### 4. Reading God's Word, one learns that Christian love is being God-like.

- **"...We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren..." (1 John 3:14)**
- Loving one another as Jesus does is evidence that one has been saved.
- Christian love is loving others for the Lord Jesus' sake.
- Christian love is a divine gift, and is totally dependent upon God for its practice and one needs to pray daily that the Holy Spirit will put in action that God-like love.

## 5. Reading God's Word, one learns how to rightly practice Christian love.

- **"...By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments..." (1 John 5:2)**
- How does one test his/her love to God? By keeping God's commandments.
- Love is to be expressed in a Godly way and that will be when God has the right place in a person's heart.
- Petting and pampering one another is not brotherly nor Godly love, but encouraging one another to keep going, to not give up and continuously look to the Lord Jesus.
- Christian love is a holy thing, not an ordinary kind of sentiment.
- Christians are to love one another in truth (**3 John 1**).

## 6. Reading God's Word, one learns the many ways Christian love is revealed/shown.

- Christian love reaches around the world, not just a local kind of love.
- **"...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? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth..." (1 John 3:17-28)**
- Real love is practical, considers no task/job too big, nor too small when one can help others.
  - Jesus thought of the bodily hunger of the multitude that followed Him.
- When a person cannot physically help another he/she can take the needs of that person/persons to the Lord in sincere, caring prayer.
- **"...He ever liveth to make intercession for them..." (Hebrews 7:25)**
  - Jesus prayed on the behalf of others many times.
- Not only does praying for the needs of others benefit those being prayed for, but it benefits the Christian doing the caring and praying.
  - One cannot sincerely lift the needs of others up to the Lord God in prayer unless there is a sincere and loving concern for them and their needs.

## 7. Reading God's Word, one learns how to cultivate God's kind of love.

- It is hard to express and show love to certain people but it is just as hard for some people to test any love being shown to them as well.
- The best way to grow in grace and to love as Jesus loves, is to practice Jesus' kind of love.
  - One cannot pick and choose which he/she is to express his/her love to, for Jesus loves everyone.
- The more one is truly trying to love others as Jesus does, the more that person's heart will be drawn to those very people.

## CONCLUSION:

1. To be like Christ, one must love like Christ.
2. To love like Christ is to love everyone.
3. To love everyone like Christ takes a special kind of love that comes ONLY from God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
4. To love like Christ one has to DO IT, not just talk about it or wish that one could.
5. Ever Christian can be like the Lord Jesus Christ IF he/she really wants to. Do YOU?