

THE SECRET OF "TRUE" LOVE

1 John 3:16-24

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Jesus was called "teacher," "rabbi" but He was always frustrating the religious leaders because what Jesus spent most of His time talking about was not the law, but love. People were always asking Jesus questions about legal things, such as is it alright to go get an ox out of a ditch on the Sabbath, or is it right to pay taxes to Rome, or what about a woman caught in adultery. Jesus was always trying to get people to focus on the spirit of the law and not on the letter of the law. It is a fact that one can keep God's law without loving but one cannot love without being obedient to God's laws. If believers are to walk as Jesus walked, then they are going to have to learn how to share Jesus' love.

I. TRUE, REAL LOVE IS FROM GOD

1. True love is not part of human nature for it comes from God.
2. People "love" all sort of things, such as their families, their friends, their pets, their cars, boats, new carpet, new clothes, furniture, etc.
 - What people refer to as love is a degree of infatuation, affection, lust, and concern.
 - "Oh, I just lllloooooovvvvveeee my new hair do.....etc.
3. True love is not something one learns about from reading a book, watching a movie or television show, it has to be experienced in one's own personal life.
 - Christians KNOW true love for they have experienced it in their relationship with the Lord Jesus.
 - What Jesus did for mankind on the cross is the supreme expression of love.
 - To accept what Jesus did and to yield one's entire existence to Jesus Christ is to open up one's life to experience true, genuine, Godly love.
4. The world knows very little about true love because the world knows very little about God.

II. TRUE, REAL LOVE IN ACTION

1. True love is not just a word. It is something that must be applied every day in one's life.
 - Some people don't love and in return they are not easy to love.
 - True love requires one to take his/her eyes off him/herself and see the needs of others.
2. Christians often talk about love but show very little of true love.
 - Where is "true" love being shown when a Christian gets very loud and in another person's face and yells, "you're going to hell if you don't accept Jesus Christ right now....." or something to that effect.
3. What kind of impression of Jesus Christ do YOU give?
 - Do you love, care, are concerned for others and their needs?
 - Was Jesus Christ moody, withdrawn, legalistic, choosy about who He talked to?
 - Is YOUR love given freely, openly, unbiased?
 - Or do you expect certain things before showing YOUR love to others?

III. TRUE, REAL LOVE IS COSTLY

1. True love is not cheap.
 - Look at what God's love cost:
 - His Son dying on a Cross for mankind that God loves so much.
 - Christians must expect to "pay a price" whenever they show true, real, genuine love.
 - They become vulnerable, are misunderstood, even rejected.
 - One takes a chance in order to love others as Jesus did.
 - Some will reject it.
 - Some will misuse it.
 - Some will respond to it
 - Love cures:
 - it cures those who give it.
 - it cures those who receive it.

2. Living the life of true, genuine, real love is not easy nor is it very common, but it will lead one to Christ and to a wonderful fellowship with Him.

CONCLUSION:

1. Love is a very common word and everyone uses it, from tiny children to the very old.
2. Love has different meanings to everyone.
 - It is a word that is used to express a "like," a strong feeling, an attraction, a desire.
 - It is a word that usually has little deep importance or value as it is such a common word.
3. God's love is vastly different from what mankind is accustomed to.
4. God's love can be experienced through one's belief in Jesus Christ.
 - The greatness of God's love is seen in what He did through/with His Son at the cross.
 - Jesus Christ died on a cross so that God could take Jesus' death and use it to pay for the sins of mankind and thereby justify any and all who would believe in His Son and give themselves to Him totally.
5. Christians are to share with others that same kind of love they received from God with others.