

A COUPLE OF THINGS ABOUT "LOVE"

1 John 3:11-18

Introduction: All of us use the word "love" and in all probability each of us has a different definition of "love." We "love" chocolate pie, we "love" to go fishing, we "love" to go on vacation, oh yes, we "love" our family and of course we "love" God. So, does our "love" mean the same thing every time we use the word? Here's a couple things to consider about the word "love." See if it is the same kind of "love" you have.

I. "LOVE'S GREATEST ACT: (*"...He laid down His life for us..."*)

1. "Love" originated with Almighty God.
2. "Love" was manifested in it's clearest form through the Son of God, Jesus Christ.
3. "Love" is channeled through Jesus Christ.
4. "Love" revealed itself by Jesus laying down His life for us.
5. "Love" and it's true meaning was revealed by Jesus Christ offering Himself for our sin.
6. "Love" was revealed under the strangest circumstances "in that while we were yet sinners, He died for us..."
7. "Love" has no limits as it reaches out to the entire world.
8. "Love" intends to save, purify and to bring us into the presence of God, accepted as His Children
9. This is "love" in it's greatest act.

II. "LOVE'S" GREATEST LESSON:

1. "Love" teaches a truth about us that we have forgotten or maybe never knew.
 - Everyone is very precious in the eyes of God.
 - Anytime self-sacrifice on our part for someone else is the noblest expression of "love."
 - It needs to be used in:
 - removing stumbling blocks and obstacles to human advancement, whether inside or outside.
 - creating and sustaining new efforts to lift a person up in being, both physical and spiritual.
 - It will teach and reveal that "love" first came from Heaven and shows us the right way.
2. "Love" shows us a new duty, that of giving ourselves for others.
3. "Love" can become an inspiration within us.

4. "Love" is the test of our true character, "how much do I really love my neighbor?"
5. "Love" generates a new and tender desire, "let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

CONCLUSION:

1. "Love" was done by God and His Son, Jesus, for you and me, for us.
 - Some have accepted this great act of "love," others have been delaying to accept it.
2. "Love" causes a great change to happen when it is accepted as God intends for us to accept it.
 - Look at the state FROM which we changed from:
 - We were already condemned and living in a world of spiritual darkness.
 - We were morally and spiritually dead.
 - We lived in a continual state of sin, separated from God.
 - Look at the state TO which we are changed to:
 - We have been adopted as children of God.
 - We are united, joined to God by our faith in Jesus Christ.
 - We have entered into true life and light.
 - We have the continual presence of the Holy Spirit to help us in all things.
3. Right now, accept this "love" of God that He has displayed so clearly through and in His Son, Jesus. Give yourself to Him right now.