

THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE

1 John 4:8-11

“⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

INTRO: When we start talking about love a group of individuals tune out their ears to it because of a misconception there is about love. Love is not only meant for couples; love is a language that reaches out to all mankind! Love in the Biblical context is an expression that starts with God and ends with Him. During the month of February, we will be ministering 4 sermons on love; all of these sermons will be directed to the Church, all of us! The Language of Love, Cultivating Love, Love Never Fails and Perfect Love. Join us, as we take you to the true meaning of what Love is about.

I. LOVE HAS TO BE BROUGHT BACK TO **IT'S TRUE MEANING**

1. God is **love**

- 1) Yes, He is **infinite**
- 2) Yes, He is **spirit**
- 3) He expresses Himself through **Love**
 - (1) People say: “If God is truly loving, why....?”
 - (2) It's because of **sin**

2. God **showed** His love

- 1) Even though we are sinners He **sent** His son Jesus – Vs. 9
- 2) He sent him as an **atoning** sacrifice – Vs. 10
 - (1) Taking our **place** at the cross

3. God wants us to **share** His love – Vs. 11

- 1) We also ought to **love** one another

II. MEN'S MISTAKE IN **EXPRESSION OF LOVE** - 1 Cor. 13:1-3 ^{“1} If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.”

1. We believe that if we become **religious**, we will be loved – Vs. 1
2. We believe that if we have **wisdom** and **knowledge** we will be loved – Vs. 2
3. We believe that if we are **rich**, we will be loved – Vs. 3

III. THE TRUE **EXPRESSION OF LOVE**

1. It **comes** from God himself

2. It is **through** the Church

- 1) Paul is **speaking** to the Church and He **shares** with us
 - (1) You seek the **spiritual gifts** but there is something more excellent – 1 Cor. 12:29-31 ^{“29} Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.”

3. Love is the language the Church is supposed to speak

- 1) Spiritual **gifts** are great
- 2) Speaking in tongues is **essential**

4. *The Church is supposed to:*

- 1) Realize **LOVE** above of everything
 - (1) 1 Cor. 13:13 “¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”
- 2) **Pursue** (Follow in order to catch) love
 - (1) 1 Cor. 14:1 “¹ Pursue love, and desire spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy.”
- 3) Through love **edify** one another – 1 Cor. 14:26 “²⁶ How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.”
- 4) Characteristics of **Love** within the **Church** – Rom. 12:9-13 “⁹ *Let love be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰ *Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.”
 - (1) Without **hypocrisy** – vs. 9
 - (2) Be kindly **affectionate** to one another with brotherly love -vs 10
 - (3) Giving **preference** to one another – vs 10
 - (4) **Diligent** (having or showing care) – vs. 11
 - (5) **Fervent** (passionate) – vs 11
 - (6) **Serving** the Lord – vs 11
 - (7) **Distributing** to the needs of the saints – vs 13
 - (8) Given to **hospitality** – vs 13

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CONCLUSION: