

83# Sermon @ Little Hocking, OH 3/4/2007 p.m.
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Mark T. Tonkery

Love Lessons From God
 Text: 1 John 4:7-5:5

Introduction

- A. “Would you like to begin to change the world right where you are, in your little corner? Would you like to make this earth a better place to live? And would you like to know how you can do great evangelistic work even if you can’t say a word in public?” The way you can do all this is by love, not the hippy kid of free love we see on TV but Biblical Love.
- B. A wise man once said, “The need to love and be loved is the simplest of all human wants. Man needs love like he needs the sun and the rain. He perishes without it. His basic longing is to be the object of love and to be able to give love. No other need is quite so significant to his nature.”
- C. Love is one of the most common themes in the Bible. It not only talks about it but it describes how we can live it and apply to our lives. Tonight we are going to look at how John describes love in 1 John 4:7-5:5.

Body

I. God’s love is-

- A. Selfless v. 9
 1. John 3:16 “You cannot reach out and help another soul without stretching your own” (Tate).
 2. God made himself available to man through Jesus Christ. John 1:14
 2. “Although Jesus was with God, He was God, and He made everything; He became flesh.”
 3. Jesus physically was accessible. God in the flesh became man giving up the riches of heaven.
 4. Phil. 2:6-7.
- B. Serving v. 10
 1. The best picture of The Lord being a serving God is found in John 13:1-20 when our washed His disciples feet.
 2. Another example in Lk. 15:1 ff that the shepherd went and searched for the 1 lost sheep. This parable basically shows us of mankind’s rebellion and God’s mercy and grace, and we see how God is always ready to restore us as we see in the rejoicing of the found sheep.
 3. The Lord show through sending Christ to die on the cross for our sins.
 - a. Gal. 4 - “God sent forth his Son, ...that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because we are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba Father.
- C. Set forth love v. 19
 1. The Father not man set the example of love.
 2. In fact God created us with the need to be loved unconditionally. So through Jesus, God showed us how we are to be love and how to give love.
 3. Christ showed us that love is:

- a. Sensitive- He was sensitive to peoples presence, there needs, and them being a human being.
 - i. This is what you and I need.
 - ii. Have you ever gone to a Restaurant and had poor service. The waiter takes your order, and then you don't see him for half an hour. Then he comes had says I went on break and your food will be out in 10 min. Mean while he never gives you anything to drink. Then when the food comes out it is cold and the waiter doesn't apologize. Jesus was not like that, he was sensitive to peoples needs.
 - b. Helpful- some folks are only superficial about their kindness and their helping hand. But not Jesus. He was people sensitive and did not duck unpleasant experiences. He helped the sick, poor, the lame, the prostitutes, the adulteries, and all sinful people that were despised by the religious people of his day.
 - i. Often his first question was "What can I do for you?" "Is there something I can do to help?"
 - ii. His questions were not a challenge, or a threat but a sincere attitude of helpfulness.
- II. Our love in responses to God's - v. 19-21 If we say we love God then John tells our love will be seen by:
- A. Loving one another. V. 11
 - 1. Do people know how much you care? Not by things you give but by kind words, acceptance, visits, phone calls, prayers, and support.
 - 2. Do we show our love by believing in one another? A story is told about a preacher whose son went off to college. Now the son had a dog and his dad the preacher did not like dogs, but the dad kept the dog any way. When the son came back from college he told his mom, "You know, when I came back I knew you still loved me and believed in me because I knew you don't like dogs, yet you never got rid of mine."
 - 3. The son knew, that in keeping the dog, his parents had been keeping a part of him because of their love. They had been saying symbolically that their home was still there for the boy to come back to.
 - 4. Do we love one another like that? Do we do things we don't like to do in order to show our love to those around us?
 - B. We acknowledge Christ. v. 15
 - 1. We also show God we love Christ by acknowledge Christ with our lips, heart, mind, and lifestyle.
 - 2. It is just not Sunday morning, or Wednesday night it is the way we live on Monday - Saturday. It is how we apply the Word's of Christ to our life.
 - 3. "The number one cause of atheism is Christians. Those who proclaim God with their mouths and deny Him with their lifestyles is what an unbelieving world finds simply unbelievable." May this never be said of you or I.
 - C. We have confidence on judgement day. v. 17

1. Love causes us to trust in Christ and respond to his plan of Salvation and live accordingly. By living out our love to God we have confidence on judgement day.
 2. Not only did John say here and in 1 John 5:11-13
 3. Jesus said it in John 3:16
 4. Paul said it in 2 Tim. 4:6-8
 5. Peter said it in 2 Peter 3:10-13
 6. That if we love the Lord we will have confidence on the judgement day.
- D. We carry out God's commands. v. 5:2
1. But our love for the Lord must be in obedience to his love.
 2. 1 Cor. 13:4-8
 3. God's love says there is a standard. Love means disciple, love means saying no at times, and saying yes at times.
 - a. It is why parents discipline their children.
 - b. It is why we take care of ourselves.
 - c. It is why we take care of others.
 3. We carry out commands of God because of love, love your neighbor, do not worry, do not lust, obey my words, repent of your sins, be baptized, be faithful. And the list could go on.

III. Wouldn't be nice if we as Christians loved as John instructed?

- A. Wouldn't it be nice if when people were looking for the church of Christ would stop and ask someone at the Cool Spot where we where located they would say yes that is where everyone loves each other instead of you better avoid them they are judgmental and selfish.
- B. Wouldn't it be nice if when we heard someone in needing food instead of not doing any thing about we would go and take that someone food.
- C. Wouldn't it be nice if saw people as important in life, worth fighting for, instead writing them off, or talking bad about them or ignoring them?
- D. Wouldn't be nice if every time we went out in public that we looked for opportunities to build people up? Say kind things, smile, and compliment them.
- E. Wouldn't be nice if we set the example of love and good deeds in our communities, in homes and as a congregation instead of the Red Cross, or the Salvation Army, or some Millionaire?
- F. Love does not have to accept error, Love does not have to let things slide, love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps not record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always preserves, Love never fails. (1 Cor. 13:4-8).

Conclusion

- A. Tradition says that each Lord's day after the Apostle John retired to Ephesus the church asked him if he had anything to say. The elderly apostle with great effort would walk to the front of the meeting room and say, "My little children, love one another."

- B. Jesus had the same message for his disciples. "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn. 13:34-35). Jesus told us to love one another even as he loves. He also said that this world would know we belong to him through our love to one another. Those who are lost don't care about right doctrine or right preaching; they care about love. Unless we show love, many sincere individuals may be lost.
- C. We have so many opportunities to show love. There are many in this church who are sick; we can visit, send cards, prepare food, pray. There are many in this church who need an encouraging word; a kind word and a loving word, we can speak that word. There are many around us who have lost loved ones in recent months; we can visit, spend time with them in their home, pray. There are many outside the church looking for love and compassion. There are many outside the church looking for a warm smile and someone to care about them. We can be that person who shows love to people in and out of the church.
- D. Love is not an emotion; it is an action. Unless we put our love into action, our love has not been perfected. John instructed us "not [to] love in word or speech but in deed and truth" (1 Jn. 3:18). Actions speak louder than words!
- E. Let us this week put our love into action. This week let us show the world that we belong to Jesus Christ. This week let us fulfill his "new commandment." After all, "he who abides in love abides in God" (1 Jn. 4:16).
(By Justin Imel)

Invitation

Tonight are you looking for the love of a lifetime? If so Jesus is that love. Will you respond to him today by confessing him as Lord, Repenting of your sins and being united with him in baptism as we stand and sing.

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