

The Love of God

Concept:

It would be impossible to do any kind of discipleship without talking about the love of God. I John 4:16 makes the statement that God is love. This is truly a rich statement but leaves us with a concept that is not presented in its fullness. The verb “is” does not appear in the original language. The statement should read God Love. God and Love are inseparable and perfectly and exactly the same.

The Love that we are talking about is the New Testament kind of Love called agape in the original language. Agape was not used in early Greek writings until Jesus came on the scene and demonstrated this kind of Love. In the same manner, we didn’t really understand what our Heavenly Father was all about until Jesus came and demonstrated His nature and attributes. Then we could say that Jesus showed us a true picture of God and a true picture of Love.

As we look at the scriptures on love we are looking at the very core of God and our faith should show because love never fails. Since our faith is anchored in that Love, our faith can’t fail. As we see a Heavenly Father that so loved the world and then manifested that love through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus; could He possibly withhold any good gift from us? The answer is simple, He will not. Be encouraged as you read about love. Allow the love of God to penetrate your heart and paint a correct picture of what your Heavenly Father is really like. He is different from your earthly father and He has put a Spirit of Adoption in you that is just waiting to cry out Abba Father and then experience the corresponding response from a father that is waiting to invite you into His arms.

Scripture Application:

Definitions of terms:

- Eros: Sexual love, physical love, and mutual desire between a man and woman. Found in the Song of Solomon. The word has degenerated into sensuality.
Genesis 3:16
I Corinthians 7:4-5
Proverbs 30:19
Proverbs 7:18
- Storge: Family love, respect, cares. We are family, the family, of God and that is where we get the greeting Brother and Sister when we acknowledge people at church. That is why we cry with those who cry and laugh with those who are happy.
Romans 12:5 (Amp)
Romans 1:18-31 (negative)
II Timothy 3:2-3 (negative)
- Phileo: Friendship, affection we feel toward people we like being around, Phileo loves what is loveable, real feeling in marriage for romance and affection.
Proverbs 17:17
John 11:3

John 5:20

John 16:27

John 21:15

Titus 2:4

Titus 3:15

- Agape: Divine love, non-emotional love, an act of the will, doesn't appear in early Greek literature, secular writing, or early philosophy. Jesus had to come and demonstrate the definition of the word. Agape will never love you any more tomorrow than it will today. Agape always wants what is best for you and is aggressive to see that goal accomplished.

John 15:13

Romans 5:5

I Corinthians 13:13

Galatians 5:6

II Timothy 1:7

(Definitions from Dick Mills book called "Four Loves" published by Harrison House)

Scripture Application:

1. Deuteronomy 7:9
2. Psalms 6:4
3. Psalms 13:5
4. Psalms 69:13
5. Psalms 119:97
6. Psalms 143:8
7. Proverbs 10:12
8. Song of Solomon 2:4
9. Isaiah 38:17
10. Isaiah 54:10
11. Matthew 5:43-46
12. Matthew 22:37-39
13. Luke 6:35
14. I Corinthians 16:14

15. I Corinthians 16:22
16. I Peter 4:8
17. Mark 1:11
18. Mark 9:7
19. Romans 5:8
20. Romans 8:35
21. Romans 13:9
22. I Corinthians 13:1-13
23. I Corinthians 13:11
24. Galatians 5:22
25. Ephesians 1:4
26. Ephesians 1:15
27. I Timothy 1:14
28. I Timothy 4:12
29. I Timothy 6:11
30. II John 1:6
31. Revelations 2:4
32. Revelations 12:11
33. John 14:21
34. John 15:13
35. Galatians 5:6
36. Galatians 5:13,14
37. Ephesians 5:25

- 38. I Thessalonians 3:12
- 39. I Thessalonians 4:10
- 40. I John 3:16,17
- 41. I John 4:12
- 42. I John 4:18
- 43. Jude 1:21
- 44. Philemon 1:5
- 45. Hebrews 10:24
- 46. I Peter 2:17
- 47. I Thessalonians 3:6
- 48. I Thessalonians 5:8
- 49. John 15:9

Summary:

We feel like the disciples that walked with Jesus on the road to Emmaus. We can say with them “Didn’t our heart burn as He talked to us through His Word?” As we meditate on these scriptures, our eyes will be open and we will be able to eat the bread of life and drink from the well of salvation. Pray that you will be able to comprehend how big the love of God is for each of us. It has no dimension and it cannot be measured, but He does want to show us how great His Love is for all of His kids.

Action:

Write two of the scriptures on the sheet that you enjoyed on a note card and memorize them. As you keep speaking them over and over, the word will become alive and you will begin to live those scriptures. People will see the scriptures printed on your life style.