



# Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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## HOW TO LOVE **GOD** with Everything You Have!

*This series was preached from July 31st to August 14th, 2022*

### **The set up to our text:**

Vs. 13 – “And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in his words.”

(proceeds to ask him about where to pay taxes)

Vs. 18 – “Then come unto him the Sadducees, which say there is no resurrection; and they asked him, saying,”

(proceeds to ask about whose wife it is at the resurrection)

**UNDERSTAND:** When people try to trip you up in questions...there may not necessarily be an answer that is acceptable to them...they thought of the question to try and trip you up. If you say one thing...they will argue this and if you say the other thing they will say that! Most people who ask questions...these types of questions...are not after an answer, they are after to trip you up, to make their point!

### Mark 12:28-31

28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?

**NOTE:** The third group is represented here...

**(NLT)** – “One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

**UNDERSTAND:** He was NOT interested in the answer. He saw Jesus answer the other clever questions and thought he could REALLY stump Jesus.

If Jesus answered don't kill...then stealing is acceptable to Him?

If Jesus answered love God...then it is okay to kill and lie?

29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Jesus actually answers the question...what is the most important of all commands?

His answer is love. Love God, love others!

“**Same**” – homios – the same as

**HOWEVER:** He separates them in part A and part B.

**IN OTHER WORDS:** They are both essential, but you cannot appropriately do part B without taking care of part A. Loving God is first, so that you can do the loving of people.

## Love God Wholly

We need to understand the wording in verse 30 isn't necessarily specific in how to love Him...just to love Him completely, wholly. From your head to toes, from the inside to the outside, from your physical ability to your psychological ability.

**Love God with all that you have.**

Psalm 18:1 – “I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.”

(he then goes on to tell why he loves the Lord)

**(AMP)** – “I LOVE You fervently and devotedly, O Lord, my Strength.”

**(PASSION)** – “Lord, I passionately love you and I'm bonded to you, for now you've become my power!”

What a description from David.

**NOTE:** We will look a little more at David in this series...there is a reason that he is referred to as a man after God's own heart.

David's words...

- Fervently and devotedly...
- Passionately...

This is describing more than a “part-time lover”...more than a fling...more than a once in a week... more than a hobby.

David is describing an all consuming, over-whelming attachment to His Lord!

A love that consumes him heart, soul, mind and strength.

A love that consumes him when he wakes up...when he goes to sleep and in between on both sides.

Psalm 63:1-7

- 1 O God, thou art my God; **early will I seek thee**: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;
- 2 To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.
- 3 Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.
- 4 Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.
- 5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:
- 6 When I **remember thee upon my bed**, and **meditate on thee in the night watches**.
- 7 Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

**YOU SAY:** Very cool, Pastor Thad...I really, really love Him. Is that enough? What does it look like to love him with all I have?

Well, I believe the list could go on for a while...but I really want to narrow it down to three things for this series:

## 1 – Love the Things of God

This could really also be the WAYS of God! Love His system...love His kingdom! If He said it, love it!

We have been raised to argue things...but our power comes in loving it! Jumping in with both feet... letting it consume us!

**If God says it is important...we say it is important!**

**YOU SAY:** "But..but...but..."

Then you are not consumed. God wants us consumed with His ways.

**THOUGHT:** Insert, when Ezra and Nehemiah read the words of the law to the people...they had not been doing the words of the law...they responded with tears!

1 John 2:15 – "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

Romans 8:7 – "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."

Amos 5:14,15

- 14 Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.
- 15 Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.
- 16 Therefore the LORD, the God of hosts, the Lord, saith thus; Wailing shall be in all streets; and they shall say in all the highways, Alas! alas! and they shall call the husbandman to mourning, and such as are skilful of lamentation to wailing.
- 17 And in all vineyards shall be wailing: for I will pass through thee, saith the LORD.

**NOTE:** Israel has been unfaithful to God...God calls Amos to confront their wrong doing...he tells them to stop loving wrong doing.

Quit thinking it is okay to live like you want to live...do what you want to do...correct yourself and get on course!

**BELOVED:** This does NOT mean to get in a closet and stay there and don't live life...it just means priorities the WAYS of God over your says.

If God tells you to do something...it takes priority over what you THINK or even WANT!

Psalm 37:4 – "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

**"DELIGHT"** – yield and enjoy the things of God...

- 1.) He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him. You will receive.
- 2.) You may have fleshly desires, but after delighting in Him, you will GET His desires instead of your own.

**IN OTHER WORDS:** Begin yielding to and enjoying the WAYS of God, and He will place His heart in you and it will begin to drive you, instead of being secondary.

Psalm 1:1-3

**"Blessed"** – empowered to increase/prosper

- 1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.
  - If you are living according to what the ungodly say to do...you cannot be blessed.
  - If you are hanging out and living in the same path as the heathen...you cannot be blessed.

**NOTE:** this does not mean don't minister to them...**"standeth"** – to tarry...to live.

  - If you sit down (long term) in the vicinity of those who scoff at God's system...you cannot be blessed. **AGAIN:** "sitteth" is meaning long term, "seat" – is more of a site or abode, not a chair.

**BELOVED:** You cannot prosper doing it your own way...only ONE WAY to prosper...

- 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.  
 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

**A LITTLE DIFFERENT: “Delight”** – pleasure, desire, purpose, willingness  
 You delight in the ways of God...the things of God.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Many of you may (sigh) DO what the Bible say (ugh).

That is NOT what this is saying...LOVE IT! ENJOY IT! DELIGHT IN IT!

2 Corinthians 9:7 – “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: **for God loveth a cheerful giver.**”

(AMP) – “Let each one [give] as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (**He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without**) a **cheerful (joyous, “prompt to do it”) giver [whose heart is in his giving].**”

Isaiah 55:6-11

- 6 **Seek ye the LORD** while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:  
 7 **Let the wicked forsake his way**, and the **unrighteous man his thoughts**: and let him **return unto the LORD**, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for **he will abundantly pardon.**  
 8 For my **thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways**, saith the LORD.  
 9 For as the **heavens are higher than the earth**, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.  
 10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:  
 11 **So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth**: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

God has NOT given us a way of operating that is doomed to fail.

**YOU SAY:** I know people who have failed.

**UNDERSTAND:** If you live with one foot in the world and another in the Kingdom...you will be miserable...you will be half-hearted...it will fail.

**GOD never promises** to bring blessings on those who are almost in His kingdom and His ways... only those who are in!

## Conclusion of #1

Where is your heart...your passion?

Following your own budget?

Following your own feelings or emotions?

Obeying God? Consuming yourself with God?

## 2 – Affection for the House of God

**LISTEN:** Too often we get the feeling that going to church is optional; is a good thing, not essential; for pastors..etc.

We MUST UNDERSTAND that it is MUCH deeper than that!

**FIRST THINGS FIRST:** “Well, Pastor Thad, are we the HOUSE OF GOD? So, a lot of this terminology that you are using does NOT apply to us in the New Testament church”

Well, let’s get this taken care of...let’s get this revelation!

- Yes, we are the dwelling places of God...the Holy Spirit. He absolutely lives inside of us! No questions...not arguing!
- **HOWEVER**, we are HOUSES of God (dwelling places) in that we are an essential part of the whole HOUSE!
- **UNDERSTAND:** Both are true...both are essential understanding.

**Let’s check some stuff out:**

1 Peter 2:5 – “Ye also, as lively stones, **are built up a spiritual house**, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”

**(PASSION)** – “Come and be **his “living stones” who are continually being assembled into a sanctuary for God**. For now you serve as holy priests, offering up spiritual sacrifices that he readily accepts through Jesus Christ.”

Hebrews 10:25 – **NOTICE:** We are to be assembled together...**WHY?**...for a dwelling place!

Ephesians 2:19-22

- 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, **and of the household of God;**
- 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;**
- 21 In whom all the **building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:**
- 22 In whom **ye also are builded together for an habitation of God** through the Spirit.

His true habitation is when we are gathered together.

In the Bible there are 3 places on this earth that are identified as the house of God...

- The Tabernacle (for over 400 years)
- The Temple (until the NT)
- And in the New Testament...

1 Timothy 3:14,15

14 These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly:

15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know **how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God**, the pillar and ground of the truth.

**BELOVED:** The House of God is the church...the body of Christ! That gathering of believers!

Colossians 1:18 – “**And he is the head of the body, the church:** who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

Jesus is the HEAD of the body...therefore, we are part of Him...when we are IN HIM!

Psalms 133:1-3

- 1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren **to dwell together in unity!**
- 2 It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;
- 3 As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

**BELOVED:** Our power...our increase...comes from us being together! Us...being God's house!  
Us...being ASSEMBLED together.

That is why God tells us to NOT forsake the assembling of ourselves together.

That is more than just show up in church...that means us working our part.

Ephesians 4:16 - :From whom the whole **body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth**, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

## Jesus had an Affection for the House of God

**REMEMBER:** Jesus operated as a man on this earth...He did NOT do what He did because He was God...He did it because He was dependent upon God.

Acts 10:38 – “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; **for God was with him.**”

Philippians 2:5-8

5 Let this mind be in you, **which was also in Christ Jesus:**

6 Who, **being in the form of God**, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, **and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:**

8 And **being found in fashion as a man**, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Luke 4:16 – “And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: **and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day**, and stood up for to read.”

**(PASSION)** – “When he came to Nazareth, where he had been raised, he went into the synagogue, as he always did on the Sabbath day.”

**LOOKING** at when Jesus was cleaning out the temple, here is what He said:

John 2:17 – “And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.”

**(NLT)** – “Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: “Passion for God's house will consume me.” (Psalm 122)

Obviously, Jesus had an affection for His Father's house!

**REMEMBER:** Jesus, as a child...His parents were heading home from Jerusalem and realized Jesus was not with them.

**QUESTION:** Where was HE?

Luke 2:46,49

46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

**(NLT)** vs. 49 – “But why did you need to search?” he asked. “Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?”

## Going to the House of God is Essential

**ONE QUICK POINT:** I want to be careful not to confuse church attendance with salvation or even spirituality...going to church does not make you a Christian.

**YET,** if you are going to love the Lord with your whole heart...you will need an affection for the House of God.

Having the affection towards the House of God will open up blessings for you and increase for you!

Hebrews 10:24-25

24 And let us **consider one another to provoke** unto love and to good works:

25 **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

### **DO NOT FORSAKE...just don't!**

One pastor, apparently fed up with all the excuses given to why they didn't attend church, made this list:

#### **Ten reasons why I don't take a bath!**

- 1.) I was forced to take baths as a child.
- 2.) People who take baths are hypocrites...they think they are cleaner than everyone else.
- 3.) There are so many different kinds of soap...I can't decide which one to use.
- 4.) I used to take baths and I got burned out...so I stopped.
- 5.) I only take baths on special occasions, like Christmas and Easter.
- 6.) None of my friends take baths.
- 7.) I will start taking baths when I get older.
- 8.) I can't spare that much time.
- 9.) The bathroom is never warm enough in the winter and cool enough in the summer.
- 10.) People who make soap are only after my money.

## David's Affection Towards the House of God

Acts 13:22 – “And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, **a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.**”

What made David a man after God's own heart?

He did and loved what God considered important!

David said more about the House of God than anyone else in the Bible.

**HONESTLY** we cannot cover them all...

Psalms 26:8 – “LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth.”

**(PASSION)** – “Lord, I love your home, this place of dazzling glory, bathed in the splendor and light of your presence!”

Psalms 84:10 – “For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. **I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.**”

Psalms 27:4 – “One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may **dwelt in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD**, and to enquire in his temple.”

**(NIV)** – “One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.”

One passage that really came alive during this study was Psalm 23:

Vs. 6 – “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: **and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**”

**QUESTION:** Why will he dwell in the house of the Lord, forever?

**BECAUSE** of verses 1 thru 5...that is what happens...so he will stay!

When you are located in the house of the Lord...these are all your promises. Things you can expect.

Psalm 69:9 – “**For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up**; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.”

**(NLT)** – “Passion for your house has consumed me, and the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.”

**(PASSION)** – “**My love for you has my heart on fire! My passion consumes me for your house!** Nothing will turn me away, even though I endure all the insults of those who insult you.”

**BELOVED:** No matter what David was going through, the thing that he longed for was to be with **WORSHIPPERS** in the House of God.

He knew there were things in God’s House that he couldn’t get anywhere else!

**INCLUDING:** Mercy, favor, security, provision, fellowship, health, etc.

2 Samuel 7:1-2 – How can I have a nice house when the house of God isn’t built or taken care of?

## How to Show Affection for the House of God

**YOU MAY SAY:** “So, yadda, yadda, yadda...God wants us to go to church...okay, let’s go, now it is time for lunch!”

**BELOVED:** The affection for the house of God goes beyond church attendance...showing up and TADA...church attendance type of bucket chunkers! **Pew chunkin’!**

### 1.) Eager to go!

Psalm 122 – “I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.”

**“glad”** – brighten up, cheer up

**(NIV)** – “I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

**(MSG)** – “When they said, “Let’s go to the house of GOD,” my heart leaped for joy.”

**BELOVED:** What goes through your mind/heart when someone says, “It is time for church!”?

Psalm 69:9 (NLT) – “**Passion for your house has consumed me**, and the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.”

### 2.) Participate in worship!

Psalm 27:4 – “One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, **to behold the beauty of the LORD**, and to enquire in his temple.”

**(PASSION)** - “Here’s the one thing I crave from God, the one thing I seek above all else: I want the privilege of living with him every moment in his house, finding the sweet loveliness of his face, filled with awe, delighting in his glory and grace. I want to live my life so close to him that he takes pleasure in my every prayer.”

Psalm 116:19 – “In the courts of the LORD’S house, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.”

**(PASSION)** – “I will worship you here in your living presence, in the temple in Jerusalem. I will worship and sing hallelujah, for I praise you, Lord!”



### 3.) Reverence!

I think the story of Jesus cleansing the temple is a very clear representation of reverence in the House of the Lord.

Not a place to make money! Not a place to take lightly!

Ecclesiastes 5:1 – “Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.”

### 4.) Financial Responsibility!

Matthew 6:21 – “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

If your treasure is in your own house...that is where your heart is.

If your treasure is in the House of God...that is where your heart is.

2 Samuel 7:1-2 – David’s heart was in the House of God, so guess what...

1 Chronicles 29:3-5

3 Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house,

4 Even three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses withal:

5 The gold for things of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and for all manner of work to be made by the hands of artificers. And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD?

Malachi 3:10 – “**Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse**, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”

Part of coming to your storehouse...is bringing tithe and offering.

### 5.) Prayer!

Matthew 21:13 – “And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.”

### 6.) Ready to hear!

Ecclesiastes 5:1 – “Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, **and be more ready to hear**, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.”

Your shepherds MAIN JOB is to feed you...your MAIN JOB is to eat and grow and reproduce!

### 7.) Ready to serve!

This is a HUGE point...

**AGAIN:** Hebrews 10:25 tells us that we are assembled...

Ephesians 4:16 – tells us that each joint supplies something

You cannot just come to church and expect everyone else to take care of you...you must serve others. Fill your spot!

Psalms 84:10 – I would rather be a doorkeeper in the House of God!

That is where I would prosper!

**THOUGHT:** Often people will get an “idea” (actually God will tell them) of something that the church should do...

They go tell the pastor and then blames the pastor if it doesn't get done.

**GUESS WHAT...** God didn't tell the pastor to do that...He told you! So, YOU need to be the one that heads it up. You can connect with the pastor on funds and such, **but if God has put it in your heart...and you have an affection for the House of God, you will make sure it gets done!**

## 3 – Love the People of God

**BELOVED:** If we are going to love God with all that we have inside of us...then we are going to love the people of God.

Matthew 22:39 – “And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”

In Matthews account of the GREATEST COMMANDMENT he says that the SECOND is “like unto it” (homious – the same as).

**UNDERSTAND:** The reason most people can't love other people correctly is because they have never learned to love God wholly!

They find themselves competing with others, instead of loving them...because they have not grasped the love of God and loving God (loving the things of God).

1 John 4:18 – “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”

**THEREFORE:** When Jesus said that the FIRST command is love the LORD...yes, it is truth... but it is also coming at you in chronological order...LOVE GOD first, then you can love others.

**HONESTLY:** It only makes sense that a part of love God with all that we have includes loving HIS people!

\* **Jesus is the HEAD...we are the BODY.**

We can't just love a person's head, we must love all of that person.

1 Corinthians 11:29-30

29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not **discerning the Lord's body**.

(“discerning” - withdraw from; separate; judge; contend; etc.)

30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

- You cannot celebrate the HEAD without celebrating the BODY.

- You cannot love the HEAD without loving the BODY.

- You cannot accept the HEAD without accepting the BODY.

**BELOVED:** Loving the PEOPLE of God is essential for loving God.

- **WE MUST NOT** just be a block in the wall of the house of God...we must **be INTIMATELY FIXED** to the other bricks.

Ephesians 4:3,4a

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in **the bond of peace**.

4 **There is one body**, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

Galatians 6:10 – “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, **especially unto them who are of the household of faith.**”

**BELOVED:** It is absolutely our responsibility to love everyone...all men...

Romans 13:8 – “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.”

**HOWEVER:** Loving the people of God is another level releases in your life.

**LOVE** doesn't necessarily mean we are in DEEP covenant with all people; that we give our time and commitment to all people; but we do prioritize and live in that love for the PEOPLE OF GOD.

**THINK** about 2 Corinthians 9:7, “God loves a cheerful giver.”

**God AGAPES all men**...but can only AGAPEO those who do things according to His system.

WE should have AGAPE for all men...but AGAPEO for those of the **Household of faith!**

\* It is impossible to separate love for God and people.

1 John 4:20 – “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?”

## What is Love?

I think this is something that we need to grab a hold of...if you don't know what we are talking about...you will end up getting frustrated.

**OFTEN** we talk about “covenant” (an intimate, intricate and binding relationship between two or more people that unites their strengths in order to eliminate their weaknesses).

**THOUGH** there is LOVE in covenant...that is NOT what we are saying here.

You cannot be in deep covenant with all people. Not all people are loyal and faithful enough to enter into covenant with...**HOWEVER:** We are to still love them.

### 1.) Love is fruit of the born-again spirit.

This is really essential to understand.

**WHEN** you are born-again...love comes inside of you. Not enough love to last you a life-time, but it is the first time THIS TYPE OF LOVE has come alive in you.

New Christians will find themselves loving more and hugging more!

**HOWEVER:** The more time you spend with LOVE...the more it will grow inside of you. The more it grows inside of you...the more it will take over the outside of you.

### 2.) Love is focusing on others.

John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

“**Agapeo**” – active love to others

**AGAIN:** We are to walk in the substance of love with all men...when it comes to the HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH, we are to be ACTIVE in that love.

**1 Corinthians 13** is the major definition of love and all the definitions given are about how we associate with others:

- Long fuse...we don't blow up at others quickly.
- We are kind to others
- We don't envy others (compete with others)
- We are not selfish or boastful or puffed up
- We are not rude or talk mean to others
- We don't think evil of others or want evil to happen to others

### 3.) Love is never-ending, constant and unconditional.

Romans 8:38-39

- 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,  
39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

See, the difference between God's love and the world's love is the consistency of it...I will not be moved.

This world has made it popular to CANCEL people...

**UNDERSTAND:** That should not be so in the house of God. We should love and keep loving.

**NOW:** There are actions (AGAPEO) that we cannot take when people have decided to act unlovely towards us, but we still owe them AGAPE, because of the LOVE IN US!

## Love is the Atmosphere in Which we Abound

Philippians 1:9,10 (NASB)

- 9 And this I pray, *that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment,*  
\* Know when it is agape and agapeo!  
10 so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ;

1 John 4:7,8

- 7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, *and knoweth God.*  
8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

**BELOVED:** If you are going to experience God...in His fullness...you must walk in love. If you are going to walk in His power...you must love.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

- 1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.  
**"Tongues of men"** - An eloquent speaker  
**"Tongues of angels"** - Tongues - Acts 1:8 - you will receive power when the Holy Ghost comes upon you. 1 Corinthians 14:2 - you speak mysteries  
**BELOVED:** When you are not walking in love...you will not understand mysteries or the power that comes from your heavenly language.
- 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.  
**Just focus on ALL FAITH**...substance of faith is LARGE...you have read all the books, you know the Word...but if you don't have love...you won't see anything happen.  
Galatians 5:6 - faith works by love
- 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.  
**Giving without LOVE** will not bring increase!

Answered prayer is almost impossible when a believer steps outside of love.

**BELOVED:** Our love for the Body of Christ is essential...our abuse of the Body of Christ is harmful.

Acts 9:1-4

- 1 And Saul, yet ***breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord***, went unto the high priest,
- 2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.
- 3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:
- 4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, ***Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?***

When you bad-mouth another believer...you are persecuting Jesus.

Psalm 105:15 – touch NOT mine anointed!

**AGAIN:** 1 Corinthians 11:29-30 - not discerning the body will mess you up.

**UNDERSTAND:** Love is what drives everything that Jesus did. He never did anything out of selfish ambition.

It wasn't about furthering HIS NAME OR MINISTRY, but the Kingdom of God.

It wasn't about His comfort or increase, but for the JOY that was set before Him...us being heirs!

**THINK ABOUT THE STATEMENT:** "I know God will heal me, because I know he isn't done with me yet." Or "I know that this will turn out to my benefit because I know God isn't done with me yet."

Just look at what you are actually saying...

**ME LOOKING AT YOU:** "I am going to keep blessing you, because I am not done using you."

**IN OTHER WORDS:** When I am done using you, I won't bless you anymore!"

**HONESTLY** that is the most selfish statement I could think of!

God wants you healed because HE LOVES YOU! Not because He wants something out of you!

So we need to love others...not because of what we get out of them...but because it is the SUBSTANCE that is growing inside of us and we GENUINELY want to see them increased!

## Conclusion

There is absolutely nothing more important that to learn to walk in love for others. Especially those of the household of faith!