

October 7, 2018

**LOVE: Our Motive & Mode**  
**1Corinthians 13**

1Corinthians 13 is called “the \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter!” It describes the Love with which we are being loved by God. This is the only love He knows; the only love He gives; the love that saves us, is transforming us, & engulfs us into the life of the Trinity. This is a love too beautiful to ignore, too marvelous to contain, & too glorious to refute. But this is not a love we understand or relate!

**POP QUIZ!**

God’s love is the love to which Adam replied, **“I don’t believe You!”** – and for all of us born after the Fall, the love about which we have pled, **“It’s too good to be true!”** Even as beloved children of God, like Adam we distrust it, distort it, & deny it. We alter it by putting conditions on it, trying to earn it, & feeling that we deserve it or not. But God’s love has never been predicated on our goodness/actions; it emanates from Him because HE IS LOVE & LOVE IS GOD! There is none other!

Today, as we examine the characteristics of God’s love, we’ll find it to be our motive & mode for doing life & ministry– but only if we allow Him to love us with to His kind of love.

***I say that for 2 reasons:***

- 1) God’s love is higher/greater than anything we have/will ever experienced on earth; a love that cannot be tainted by sin
- 2) This is the love abiding in us that ***must be experienced*** by us before it ***can be expressed*** through us to others!

***We cannot love others until we let ourselves be truly loved by God!*** And it is this love that Jesus says brands His followers! That’s why we’ve got to experience God’s love fully ourselves!

**READ: 1Corinthians 13**

**1-3)** Is it possible to do supernatural things without love? YES!

***-Matt 7:22-23!***

***-“Without Love” = multiplies our ministry efforts by 0!***

***-With/without love means with/without God. He is love!***

***Remember: we must first experience God’s quality of love inwardly for ourselves before we can ever express it to others!***

*As we read, please do not estimate how “loving” you are or*

*whether your love measures up to God’s caliber; **it doesn’t!** Rather, as we read the qualities that define God’s love, let’s ask ourselves 1 question: **Am I letting God love me this way?***

**4-7)** God’s love is always & entirely patient & kind!

*-When you sin the same sin again, Love is unaffected!*

God’s love is never tinged with jealousy, vanity, or self-service

*-When you think you’re entitled to better...or they’re not!*

*-There is no “waiting for the other shoe to fall!” Undeserved*

God’s love is never rude, irritable or agitated

*-When your rights are denied or your self degraded*

God’s love never keeps a score-card!

***-“He Loves Me”*** quote – pg 136

Love always rejoices in truth, never in injustice;

*-When you think, “I hope he gets what’s coming to him!”*

God’s love never quits or considers anyone a lost cause!

*-No conditions, qualifiers, or limits; God always extends it*

Love always expects a favorable outcome & endures eternally;

*-Not just optimistic; but remembers no history!*

God’s Love can never be depleted!

*-We cannot wear out our welcome, or linger too long*

**\*Quote B: “He Loves Me!” by Wayne Jacobson**

**INVITATION:**

- 1) Ask Spirit to help you experience the realities of His love
- 2) Ask Spirit to help you express His love to others

**Matthew 7:22-23 (NLT)**

***22) On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ 23) But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’***

**POP QUIZ:** Jesus said, *“If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love.” (John 15:10)* Did He mean:

- 1) we earn His love by keeping His commands, or
- 2) obeying Him happens when we live in His love

Jesus wasn't saying that we earn his love by obeying Him – He loves us whether we do or don't obey (John 3:16!) Jesus meant that as we follow Him, we'll get to live in the fruit of his love. He invites us to come and live as loved as we already are.

**He Loves Me, by Wayne Jacobson – pg 136:**

*Many Christians believe that God is a divine scorekeeper – tracking our rights & wrongs, weighing our eternal destiny in the balance. But our Father doesn't have a scorecard – and neither should we! That's why Paul said that Jesus died on the cross “so that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature, but according to the Spirit.” (Rom 8:4)*

*If Adam and Eve's troubles began when the lost sight of how deeply God loved them, doesn't it stand to reason that our whole lives will change when we come to know the depth of His love for us? That's exactly what He wants the reality of the cross to produce in us – confidence in His love that actually destroys the root of sin and shows us how to live as His free people on the earth.*

*Freedom to grow in Him comes when you recognize that His love for you isn't affected by your actions. Nothing we do makes God love us more...or less! His loving us depends entirely on Him, not us! Our only choice is whether or not to live loved. He's done everything to demonstrate His irrefutable love, but He will not make us live there. We can still live less loved – or we can let Him fully embrace us! It's our choice.*

**Quote B**

*Most of our lives are spent living “less loved.” When we worry that God will ask us for some horrible sacrifice, we live less loved. When we indulge ourselves in sin, we live less loved. When we give in to anxiety in the crush of our circumstances, we live less loved. When we try to earn God's favor by our own efforts, we live less loved. Even when we get caught up in religious obligations to make ourselves more acceptable to him or others, we live less loved. When we don't fully trust Him – we live less loved!*

*As you turn your heart toward Him, you'll begin to recognize His voice in your conscience leading you. Follow Him, not in the anxiety-ridden fear that you'll make Him angry if you don't; but in the secure wonder that no one loves you more, that perpetually He's rooting for you, and that He only conceives good things for you! Follow and let yourself live as fully loved as you are!*

**MEDITATION: Ephesians 3:16-20 (NASB)**

16) *“that God would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power thru His Spirit in the inner man*

Love is The Presence of God in earthen, human vessels

17) *so that Christ may dwell (comfortably) in your hearts thru faith, and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,*

Love is our soul’s soil & green house

18) *may be able to comprehend with all the Saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth,*

Love is fully dimensional & omni-directional

19) *and to know the love of God which surpasses knowledge that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.*

Love is beyond knowledge: it’s relational & experiential

20) *Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us*

Love abundantly exceeds expectations by God’s power

21) *to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever! AMEN!*

Love is God’s glory shared with us!

SERMON in a SENTENCE:

**LOVE: Our Motive & Mode**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE:**

*Have you ever played the game, “He loves me, He loves me not?”*

*-What do you need to play this game?*

*-How does it work?*

It’s like “Enie, Meanie, Miny, Moe” – except you can play by yourself! To determine whether God loves you, you just alternate saying, “He loves me” & “He loves me not!” as you remove a petal of the flower. Whatever you end up saying at the last petal is the answer! Kinda of like this!

*I’ve got a secret:* Adults play this game with God all the time – usually without a flower so that we can’t see they’re playing! They judge their circumstances to be either good or bad, and then let that determine whether God loves them! Examples:

*-Dad gets a raise at work! “God loves me!”*

*-Mom’s car breaks down! “God loves me not!”*

What do you think: Do our circumstances tell us whether God loves us or not? NO! How can we be certain that God loves us? Because God tells us so: *“Jesus loves me this I know...”*

*“For God so loved...”*

*-Does God love everyone, or just those who believe?*

God loves us...and there’s nothing we can do to change His mind! He can’t love us any more than He already does; and He’ll never love us less – no matter what we do! So why don’t we just learn to live like we’re loved by God! Let’s thank Him!