

GOD'S LOVE

March 24, 2010 - Bible Study

Definition of Love: (1) "An intense affection for another person based on familial or personal ties." – *The American Heritage Dictionary*. (2) "A profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person" – *Dictionary.com*

In the first definition the phrase "based on" implies that love is conditional. "I love this or that because... I love him or her because... Most people love based on feelings and emotions that can change from one moment to the next.

God's Love, on the other hand, is unconditional. His definition of love transcends the human definition to point that it hard to comprehend. Even though we can't fully understand it, he still loves us with an unconditional and everlasting love. God is Love.

God's Love toward mankind is the centerpiece of our history and existence. His plan from the very beginning was to have a relationship with his greatest creation. However, because He is a Holy God, fellowship with us could only be accomplished by removing the barrier of sin. This did not happen overnight. Mankind was not ready for a Savior. We needed to be taught in a very physical way by outward signs, miracles, and deliverance that God loves his people unconditionally and that His love is everlasting! God proved His Love over and over again in many ways in the Old Testament. This is evident in the way he showed patience, mercy and love to the children of Israel.

Deuteronomy 7:7-9

⁷The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:

⁸But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

⁹Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

God's perfect plan of redemption took time but his love never changed.

Galatians 4:3-5

³Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:

⁴*But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,*

⁵*To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

1 John 3:1

*Behold, **what manner of love** the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:*

There are many passages in the bible that that gives us God's definition of Love. The most well known is *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.*

His way of showing love was to give his best!

Romans 6:7-8

⁷*For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.*

⁸*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

There are absolutely no conditions placed on us in these verses to receive God's Love. His Love is not based on feelings or emotions. He doesn't love us because we are so good and lovable... we are quite the opposite. He loves us in spite of our sin. He loves us because He is Love.

Not only in Death did Jesus prove his love. He also showed His love while on earth in so many ways. He healed the sick, the lame, and the blind. He cast out devils and raised the dead. Other miracles he performed are not written.

John 21:24-25

²⁴*This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.*

²⁵*And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.*

HE PROVED HIS LOVE BY HIS ACTIONS!

John 15:12-13

¹²*This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.*

¹³*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

Compassion is defined as “Love in Action”.

*Matthew 9:36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was **moved with compassion** on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.*

*Matthew 14:14 And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was **moved with compassion** toward them, and he healed their sick.*

*Mark 1:41 And Jesus, **moved with compassion**, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean*

Your love for someone will cause you to feel compassion. Just as Christ, you will take action when someone you love is in need. You can say you “love” but your actions prove it. Here are a few examples from Jesus himself:

Prodigal Son

Luke 15-20:24

²⁰*And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.*

²¹*And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.*

²²*But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:*

²³*And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:*

²⁴*For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.*

The prodigal son already knew his father loved him, but his fathers' actions proved it.

Good Samaritan

Luke 10:34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

The priest and Levite were religious and probably preached love... but they never proved it... they showed no compassion. The good Samaritan went the extra mile.

Parable of the King

Matthew 25-35:45

³⁵*For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:*

³⁶*Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.*

³⁷*Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?*

³⁸*When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?*

³⁹*Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?*

⁴⁰*And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

⁴¹*Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

⁴²*For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:*

⁴³*I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.*

⁴⁴*Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?*

⁴⁵*Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.*

1 John 3:16-18

¹⁶Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

¹⁷But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

¹⁸My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Preaching and teaching Love is essential and should be a done often but words alone are not enough. Take the next step. Am I willing to step out of my comfort zone? Do I have the courage to get out of my routine? Am I willing to sacrifice my plans or needs to help someone who is hurting? Am I willing to give someone my time? Am I willing to serve others? Am I willing to tell someone about Jesus' Love? The key phrase in all these questions is "Am I willing?"

John 13:33-35

³³Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you.

³⁴A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

³⁵By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Other related scriptures:

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

¹Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

²And 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.

³And 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.

1 Peter 1:22

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

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?

Lamentations 3:21-23

²¹This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.

²²It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

²³They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.