

# Fundamentals Of The Church

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## Love (I Jn 4:6-5:3)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
  - a. I want to say thank you to everyone that has helped us with the water situation. We are most indebted and thankful for the love that has been poured out by this create congregation.
2. Series: Fundamentals Of The Church
  - a. We finished up our lessons on "Understanding Bible Authority."
  - b. We will move on now to those subjects that continue to not only make firm our foundation but build it up as well.
3. This morning: Love
  - a. Love is a word that now-a-days has many different meanings.
    - i. We love everything from God to family; from dogs to cars...
    - ii. This is why Webster's Dictionary has 17 different noun definitions.
      1. It has 7 different verb definitions.
  - b. Love is a word in the Bible that had different meanings as well.
    - i. There are three different Hebrew words for love in the Bible from what I can tell. (<http://tinyurl.com/4fwvjkv>)
      1. "Ahab" - spontaneous, impulsive love (most common)
      2. "Hessed" - deliberate choice of affection and kindness
      3. "Raham" - to have compassion, brotherly love (Ibid)
        - a. There are basically 11 different break downs of the word used. (<http://tinyurl.com/4hloyh4>)
    - ii. There are two different Greek words for love in the Bible.
      1. "Philia" - brotherly love as in family or friends.
      2. "Agape" - Desiring the **best** for another ie desiring one to be exclusively righteous. (<http://tinyurl.com/4fwvjkv>)
        - a. There are 5 all together it seems.
          - i. Eros - erotic or sexual love.
          - ii. Storge - natural affection like that of a parent to a child. A more modern term though found some in ancient Greek. (<http://tinyurl.com/62k4cqz>)
          - iii. "Arete" - Love of comradery of men/women at arms. A modern term it seems. (<http://tinyurl.com/466kvky>)
  4. For this lesson we will look at the detailed account of how God through John describes love in **I Jn 4:6-5:3**.

### I. The Love Of God

- A. God makes it simple by telling us exactly what the "love of God" is
  1. **I Jn 5:3** "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome."
    - i. **Jn 14:15** "If you love Me, keep My commandments."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> All scriptures are taken from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

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- B. God is order not chaos thus this makes complete sense
  - 1. **I Co 14:33** "For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints."
- C. God is "God"
  - 1. He/Godhead is by His nature perfect in all things and follows Himself in all things.
    - i. Thus it makes since to say the love of God is us following God.

## II. Love Defined

- A. Godly love is action not emotion
  - 1. **I Jn 4:9** "In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him."
  - 2. Emotions can lead people astray.
    - i. **Pr 14:12** "There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death."
    - ii. **Pr 15:12** "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise."
    - iii. **Mt 7:21-23** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"
  - 3. Obedience never leads astray.
    - i. **I Jn 1:7** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."
      - a. Obedience by its very nature is righteous action based on the knowledge of God's Word.
  - 4. God was obedient to His command that He would send a Savior (**Gn 3:15**).
- B. Godly love is sacrifice
  - 1. **I Jn 4:10** "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."
  - 2. We must sacrifice our life to God.
    - i. **Lk 17:33** "Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it." (ESV)
    - ii. **Lk 9:23** "Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

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## III. How Do We Show Active Sacrifice (Love) To God?

- A. We love the brethren
  - 1. **I Jn 4:7-11** "Beloved, **let us love one another**, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, **we also ought to love one another.**" [emphasis mine]
  - 2. **I Jn 5:2** "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments."
- B. Showing our love for the brethren means...
  - 1. Putting their physical welfare to our attention.
    - i. We are to take care of each other physically.
      - a. **Ga 6:10** "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."
      - b. **Ja 1:27** "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."
      - c. **I Ti 5:16** "If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows."
  - 2. Putting their spiritual welfare "far" above their physical welfare.
    - i. **Ga 2:11** "Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed"
    - ii. **Mt 18:15-20** "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' 17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. 18 "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."
  - 3. Augustine is quoted as saying...
    - i. "God loves each of us as if there were only one of us."  
(<http://tinyurl.com/6ht7xr2>)

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## IV. If We Show Active Sacrifice To God, God Abides In Us

- A. God is seen by others through us if He abides in us, if we love.
  - 1. **I Jn 4:12** "No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us."
    - i. **Mt 5:14-16** "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."
- B. We should have no fear of hell if we have love.
  - 1. **I Jn 4:18-19** "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. 19 We love Him because He first loved us."
    - i. Fear of hell is not the motivation of love ie active sacrifice, it is God's active sacrifice for us, love.
      - a. We should respect hell but it should not be our motivation.

## CONCLUSION

- 1. I'm reminded of Madeleine L'Engle who said, "Following Christ has nothing to do with success as the world sees success. It has to do with love." (<http://tinyurl.com/4n7bbvy>)
  - a. The true love that comes from God and is expected of each of us is nothing like the watered down word for love we flippantly use today.
  - b. We must come to not only understand the love of God but have the love of God.
    - i. **Lk 10:27** "So he answered and said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'""
- 2. Invitation