

Love Each Other

3/25/2007

Over the last 4 weeks we've been looking at The Great Commandment

"Love the Lord your God...and Love one another as I have loved you."

- Love the most excellent way
- Love form or content
- Love the father wound
- Last week: The enemy of love

As we looked at Matthew 25 the parable of the sheep and goats.

- 2 Groups of people the Lord was judging in Relationship to Other People.
- Other people are our report card.
- How we love them or not love them determines whether we really Love God and whether we really have become like Christ with a New Nature.
- Remember both the sheep and the goat were wither loving others or not loving others Naturally
- The sheep met other people's needs naturally
- The goats were naturally oblivious to the state of other people.
- In both cases what they did or didn't do came from their nature - who they were.
- The old goat nature is selfish
 - Give me – Prodigal Son
 - I'll do it my way – Judas (my way or highway)
 - Looking out for #1 – Achan

D.L Moody said, "the only people God's sends away empty are those who are filled with themselves".

- The new nature in Christ is selfless
LESS – SELF
When Jesus Comes IN "I" Go Out

John the Baptist recognized this.

- *John 3:30*

My new nature in Christ puts others before myself. Just like Jesus did.

God the Father takes care of me so I can take care of others.

- *Philippians 2:1-3*

The Father says this is how we know we are His true sons.

This love for others is Not from Me but From God.

When I say "I Can't Love Joe/Jane" your right you can't – and if it's your love for them it's not what they need.

- It won't last
- It's weak and will fail
- The other person will be left feeling rejected or betrayed, lied to:

- You said you would give the sun/moon/stars – the best you can come up with is a faux ring and a used car?
- I need security/affirmation/identity and you gave me agita

Well what do we do then:

Most of us would say : Go to God, get His love and give it to others.

Yes! But how does that work?

Gods word tell us that Love isn't something but Someone

- God is love
- And His Spirit is Love
- And Love is one of the Spirit's Fruits
- His Fruit comes from our new nature in Christ while the old selfish nature is crucified.
- *Galatians 5:16-26*

This is Matthew 25 Sheep/Goats in new language.

2 Natures:

- Old nature is rooted in sin
- Produces fruit of flesh
- Crucify it!
- The new nature is rooted in Christ
- Produces Fruit of the Spirit
- Both come naturally
 - The natural outcome of God's love going into you is God's love coming out of you

A Tree doesn't "get" fruit and give it away; even so we won't "get" love from God and give it to others.

When we try to manufacture love it will be of ourselves

- I'm going to love you if it kills me – It will
- Patience/ not counting to 10 – when you "run out" God begins.

The Love God wants for us to have is fruit that comes forth naturally out of our Love Relationship with Christ

- *John 15:4-5*

Remain – Stay there/live there; not in and out/ Dwell

To Persevere

KJV = Abide ~ 3306 ~ Aima: Aorist, Imperative, Active

It's a command that must begin immediately = Urgent

- **Why:** Verse 5 – apart from me you can't do this
- **Hose:** Can't produce water – must be connected
Why so urgent/important
- *John 15:8-9*
- Because that's how He knows we are His
Just like Jesus

So here's the principle:

Abide in God's love and the fruit of love will be produced through you.

- **Tree:** Branch doesn't stress/push/work – it abides and fruit comes
Ok? – Got it? Not yet!
- It's not about the fruit – it's about other people!
- *John 15:10,12*
Whoa! Now I'm being commanded to produce fruit
- Yes! Hose: Water the garden, the flowers are dying
Yes but I can't!
Exactly! So the 1st command is essential to the second
Abide and Produce
- *John 15:10*

The Second command Love one another drives me into Jesus!

- Because I love God and what he's asking me to do is impossible pushes me deeper into surrender.
- Brings me up short and desperate for His love to come into me.
- This is the Core of the Gospel!

The First command : Love God/ Love others

God loves people

- Sinners
- Unlovable people
- Lost People
- *John 15:13-14*

2 Commands :

- *John 15:15*

The Father's business : seeking and saving the lost

- *John 3:16* – for God so loved!
- *John 15:16-17*
- We are chosen to love!!

Last Emphasis: Isn't love God because that's demonstrated when you love each other!