

# The Enemy of Love

3/18/2007

We've been looking at the 1<sup>st</sup> and primary principle of the Gospel - of CFFI mission

- The Great Commandment: Love the Lord your God.....and love one another as I have loved you.

Without love there is nothing of value.

We saw last week that loving God and others is greatly affected by what we called The Father Wound.

- The deep wound in our soul mind/will/emotion from primary father figures in our life that greatly damages us. From being able to receive and give love.
- A pot with holes in it.
- We need healing through forgiveness and repentance
- We can receive a new heart to receive the Fathers Love!

We're called to be lovers.

We're made in the image of love. God is love.

So the key to our relationship to God and others is to increase our love.

In our quest to love more we usually start with God.

How do we love God more?

- Pray more
- Worship
- Read Word more
- Etc... Go to church. Go to study/cell

Good!

But isn't it amazing how we can have a glorious time with God and 10 minutes later totally lose our Salvation!

- Patience
- Anger
- Say something stupid
- Anxiety

Usually we'll lose it on other people:

- Wife
- Husband
- Children
- Boss
- Friends

Here's the key to increasing our love for God: Love others.

Key: Our love for God is measured and reflected by how much we love others.

This is how we know we have love and how our love grows.

Gods love is known this way.

- *1 John 3:16*
- *1 John 4:9-12*

God inseparably ties our love for Him with our love for others.

- *1 John 4:19-21*

God's love is defined by the cross.

On the cross He gave His life for others.

The bars of the cross are inseparable.

To the extent we love others we love God.

Jesus loved the Father who loved us and gave himself us completely - This is Loves report Card.

How much of me am I giving to others to demonstrate my love for God! To demonstrate Gods love is in me.

Jesus dramatically illustrates this principle in the parable of the sheep and goats:

- *Matthew 25:31-46*
- They were both oblivious of what they were doing
- In a sense it came naturally out of their heart.

#### **The Goat Heart** – Selfish, Self centered

- Butting – what's good for me
- Me first/my needs and wants
- I/Me/Mine
- Sin nature/Old nature
- Un relational
- Oblivious of other people – their needs, their feelings
- Defensive/Combative/Competitive
- Proudful

#### **The Sheep Heart**

- Selfless, sacrificial
- Others first – what's good/best for them
- Very relational
- Sensitive to others condition, needs and feelings
- Compassionate, giving
- New nature, Christ in us
- Humble

God goes to the root of the issue and exposes our heart / is our heart really rooted in Gods love

Or

Rooted in the enemy and opposite of Love

Enemy of Love is not the devil – Loves opposite is not hate – the enemy and opposite of love is selfishness

The only way God has given to us to kill this enemy is the cross.  
“Pick up your cross daily and deny your self”

Jesus denied Himself when He gave His life for others not out of law/fear/obligation; not to be popular/powerful, but out of love.

That’s how He demonstrated and proved His love for the Father and His love for us.

His love for God and us perfectly matured on the cross.

He didn’t have His life taken; He gave it out of love.

He didn’t crucify himself.

You can’t do that.

He allowed other people to take His life.

Other people killed His self, but not before He laid it down for their sake out of love.

You and I can’t kill our “self” - the old nature/selfishness.

To destroy this enemy and demonstrate we really love God we must surrender our self to God.

“A living sacrifice”

- *Romans 12:1-2*

Then give our self to others out of love.

Not out of law/fear/obligation. Our life to meet their need.

They will crucify/kill our self.

They will take your life.

They’ll take everything you’ve got

It was painful for Jesus

It will be painful for us

It is a living sacrifice

But mature love hangs in there until self is totally dead.

The sacrifice is totally consumed and love is totally complete and others are totally blessed and we are growing in love also.

Jesus could have gotten off the cross any time – call angels

So can we – abort the sacrifice

Too much pain/to costly/the lack of reward or thanks/ injustice/the abuse/what about me?

- Protect self
- Preserve self

In the maturing process we do that don’t we!

Self protect/self preserve

Jesus didn’t do that -thank God

This is called the crucified life.

The renewal of true love

Living the crucified life is this:

1. Resurrection- new life; victorious life
2. Enter into a deep love relationship with God

3. Seated with Him in power and authority from heaven.
4. *Matthew 25:34*

The Holy Spirit is the spirit of God.

God is love.

He is the spirit of love

Pentecost fire bring the fire of love into our hearts.