

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

LOVE

PART ONE: THE GREATEST

Love is the most primal aspect in knowing God. We are told that knowing God equates to knowing love because God is best defined as love:

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.
/// 1 John 4:16

Love is the most primary need of every human. We all seek love in some form. How you have been shaped will determine where you look for love. In English, we have one word to describe love – but actually, love takes different forms. All forms of love spoken of in a commercial by New York Life Insurance are good in their created essence. The love spoken of in the Bible that is equated with God is the form – agape. The commercial described it as “love as an action”. While simple, that does enlighten us to the evidence of agape’s presence. The commercial also described it as the highest form of love. Again, I believe that is true. The Bible speaks at length of God and agape as being one. Over the next three Wednesday’s, we’ll discover love. It’s a need we all have in common. In our discovery of love, we’ll by necessity discover God.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (NKJV)

Humanity has always aspired to aspects of deity. It’s been our greatest downfall in many ways. We want to be masters of our own fate – controllers of that which is outside ourselves – worthy of the praise and admiration of others. While much of what we desire is unavailable to us, God is available to us. He has made Himself available to be known by us. Our concept of deity is to achieve a status where we don’t need anything. If we don’t need

anything, then we don't need love. This type of existence smacks more of X-Men than it does God. Love – not power is what makes life – life. 1 Corinthians 13 tells us that truth. If we have the power of God but have not love, we are nothing; we are still empty. The scripture states that: "it profits me nothing." The way to knowing love and therefore knowing God is through knowing Jesus.

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. /// John 14:8-9

The Bible tells us that true love never fails. It will never end. It will never fade in its intensity. It will never change its purpose. The Bible also tells us that love is the only thing which is eternal.

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. /// 1 Corinthians 13:13

This scripture details the three greatest motivations in the world. Faith is essential for bridging the gap between the natural and the supernatural. Hope is necessary in keeping our assurance that God is working for our good alive. While important now, these two will no longer be needed in heaven. But love – it will remain. Therefore, it is the element of God we must put the highest priority on knowing and living in.

Today's Scriptures:

- 1 John 4:16
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (NKJV)
- John 14:8-9