

Wednesday, December 9, 2020
LOVE
PART TWO: THE MORALITY OF LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NKJV)

Last Wednesday, we began a discovery of love. We learned that love is the most fundamental aspect of God's character. We talked about humanity's thirst for power. The Bible teaches us that power apart from the motivation of love is empty and brings no profit to the possessor. Our thirst to control and possess is really a fear-filled existence – one not comfortable to trust in love and by extension God Himself to meet our needs. God's arms are wide open to you.

Tonight, let's look at love to see what the Bible says about its essence. You remember our commercial? The Greeks in whose language the NT was written had four words to describe love:

When the Bible tells us that God is love, it uses the word "agape" to describe His character. What are some characteristics of agape? You find them in verses 4 through 8. One of the things that agape love possesses is morality.

Love does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth.

We've all heard the words: "If you love me, you will join me in this sin." *Since love is seeking the highest good for the object of its affection, it does not consider sin as a way to meet a need.* I've seen people – even believers – decide to engage in sexual sin outside of marriage and excuse it because the two people say they love each other. What is missing in such a situation is agape love. You see, agape love – God's love does not see sin as a way to meet a need. When you are enjoying God's love, you don't lead

others that you say you love into sin. Why? Because of sin's consequences.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. /// Romans 6:23

If you truly love someone, you will not lead them down a pathway that will lead them into sin because it is the pathway of death.

If you cannot trust God enough to wait upon His proper relational timing, then you are led by the flesh instead of the Spirit and you do not trust Him with the intricacies of your relationships.

Love does not seek its own. This means that while love is not blind to wants and desires, it always puts the spiritual good of the one it loves at the forefront. If you can't trust God to pick a spouse for you, then you either want something that God doesn't want for you or your faith is not founded in the wisdom, love, and goodness of God. Love rejoices in purity because purity protects the soul. Love rejoices in holiness because holiness is the pathway to the purposes of God. Love rejoices in sacrifice because there is no other expression that comes close to describing the honor and devotion it has toward the one it values.

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. /// John 15:13

Remember that agape was described as "love as an action". What are your actions and demands toward the one you say you love saying about how you love them?

Today's Scriptures:

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- Romans 6:23
- John 15:13