

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: How to Love and How to Be Loved

SERMON REFERENCE: Galatians 5:19-23; 1 Corinthians 13

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) We have a generation today that talks a lot about love, but they know less about love than any generation since the time of Christ.
 - i) The word “love” has been twisted, perverted, misused, and abused.
- b) People do not understand what love is.
 - i) Many people think that love is an inexpressible emotion.
 - ii) They think it is oceans of emotion; that it is just a feeling.
- c) Love is not a feeling.
 - i) It may contain feeling or result in a feeling, but love is not primarily a feeling nor an emotion.
 - ii) The Bible commands us to love.
 - (1) You cannot command a feeling.
 - (2) Love may contain emotion, and it frequently results in emotion; but love is not an emotion.
- d) Love is not an uncontrollable passion.
 - i) People have the idea today that love is something that happens to us, and we are more or less victims of it or recipients of it.
 - (1) They think that people fall in love and fall out of love; it just sort of happens.
 - (2) If love is something that just happens to us, then we do not have any choice over it.
 - (a) But the Bible tells husbands to love their wives.
 - (i) Colossians 3:19
 - (ii) That is not a suggestion nor a request, but a command.
- e) Love involves choice and conduct.
 - i) We can choose to love.
 - (1) When we choose to love, love is not primarily how we feel, but it is what we do.
- f) The reason people get confused about it is because we use one word for love.
 - i) The Greeks were more exact and used several words for love.
 - (1) The word “eros” is the word we get “erotic” from.
 - (a) It means the kind of love that a boy has for a girl or a girl has for a boy.
 - (2) The word “phileo” means “friendship love”.
 - ii) The word that we are studying today is the Greek word “agape.”
 - (1) This is God-like love, and it is what the world needs.
- g) Galatians 5:19-21
 - i) These things are the opposite of love.
 - ii) People who live this way shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.
 - (1) This does not mean that we cannot slip and fall.
 - (2) But if this is your lifestyle, then you do not have the lifestyle of a Christian.
 - (a) You are not saved.
- h) Galatians 5:22-23

- i) A law never has to be made that we cannot love, be kind, or be meek.
 - ii) Laws are made against the works of the flesh but not against the fruit of the Spirit.
 - i) God has given every Christian a gift, but no Spiritual gift is a mark of Spiritual maturity.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 1:7
 - (1) Paul's most carnal church was the church at Corinth, and he said that they were behind in no gift.
 - ii) If we want to know if someone is a mature Christian, then do not examine their gift.
 - (1) Instead, inspect their fruit.
 - (2) The fruit of the Spirit is the mark of spirituality.
 - j) In today's message, we will look at the first quality of the fruit of the Spirit, which is agape love.
- 2) THE DESCRIPTION OF THIS LOVE (1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7)
- a) The Apostle Paul gives a description of agape love.
 - i) There are ten qualities of agape love found in 1 Corinthians 13.
 - ii) The King James Version of the Bible calls this agape love "charity."
 - b) Agape love is steadfast love.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 13:4
 - (1) Love suffers long.
 - ii) True love enables us to be patient.
 - (1) An impatient person who gives up on people and quits loving is unlike the Lord Jesus.
 - (a) John 13:1
 - iii) True love is longsuffering love.
 - (1) It forgives seventy times seven and keeps on forgiving.
 - c) True love is serving love.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 13:4
 - (1) This love is kind.
 - (a) Kindness is serving one another.
 - ii) True love serves those who do not deserve to be served.
 - (1) If we love someone, then we will not give that person what they deserve but what they need.
 - iii) Luke 6:27-28
 - (1) We are to do good, speak well, and pray hard for our enemies.
 - iv) If someone has done us wrong, then we are to find some way that we can be kind to them.
 - (1) Find some way to bless them, pray for them and encourage them.
 - (2) This is the way that God loves us.
 - (3) This is agape love.
 - d) It is sincere love.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 13:4

- (1) It envies not.
 - ii) If we are envious and jealous, it is because we do not love the person we are envious of.
 - (1) That person has something that we want.
 - iii) If we cringe when another is praised and feel that their gain is our loss, then we don't sincerely love that person.
 - (1) True love rejoices when another is blessed.
 - iv) Proverbs 14:30
 - (1) An envious person is not a loving person and not a mature Christian.
 - e) It is self-effacing love.
 - i) True love enables us to be humble.
 - ii) 1 Corinthians 13:4
 - (1) It is not puffed up.
 - (a) This means it does not swagger; it is not proud.
 - (i) We don't rejoice if we have more than someone else.
 - (ii) We don't look down upon them.
 - 1. We cannot love someone and look down upon them.
 - iii) Pride and love do not dwell in the same heart.
 - (1) A person cannot be big-headed and big-hearted at the same time.
 - (2) A person who is filled with egotism and pride is not filled with love.
 - (a) That person is hard to be around.
 - (3) It is because of pride that people are argumentative.
 - (a) Proverbs 13:10
 - (b) Is there any contention in your home?
 - (i) Only by pride comes contention.
 - (ii) The problem is ego against ego, self-love against self-love.
 - (4) True love enables us not to be proud.
- f) True love is self-restraining love.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 13:5
 - (1) It does not behave unseemly.
 - (2) True love enables us to be courteous.
 - (3) When someone behaves unseemly, that means that they are rude.
 - (a) They do not know how to say please or thank you.
 - (b) They do not know how to think of the other person.
 - ii) Courtesy is love in the little things.
 - (1) Someone who does not love in the little things does not love in the big things.
 - iii) A person who is rude is an unloving person and is unlike the Lord Jesus Christ, who was meek, gentle, and thought of others first.
- g) True love is self-denying love.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 13:5
 - (1) It seeks not her own.
 - ii) It does not say, "Me first," or "I know my rights."
 - (1) These words are not spoken from love.

- iii) When we are saved, we lose all of our rights.
 - (1) What right does a dead man have?
 - (a) We are crucified with Christ.
 - (i) Galatians 2:20
 - (2) We are not our own; we were bought with a price.
 - (3) We belong to the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (a) Our rights become His rights.
 - (b) He is the one who has commanded us to love.
- iv) We can no longer seek our own.
 - (1) We must seek the welfare of the Lord Jesus Christ, His glory, and the welfare of others, if we truly love.
- v) Someone once said:
 - (1) If we teach someone their rights, then we will have a revolution.
 - (2) If we teach people their responsibilities, then we will have a revival.
 - (3) When we stop thinking about our rights, start thinking about our responsibilities, stop seeking our own, and start seeking to love and bless other people, then things are going to change in our world.
- h) True love is serene love.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 13:5
 - (1) It's not easily provoked.
 - ii) A vile temper is something we never lose by losing.
 - (1) People explode with temper because the love of the Lord Jesus is not on the inside.
 - (a) If anyone wants to know what they are full of, then just see what spills out when they are jostled.
 - (2) The one blot on an otherwise wonderful Christian character is often a bad temper.
 - iii) A hot temper is a sign that someone is not full of love.
- i) It is sacrificial love.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 13:5
 - (1) It thinks no evil.
 - (2) In this passage, the word "thinketh" is a bookkeeping term that means, "does not keep a record of faults."
 - (a) It is not a collector of grudges.
 - (b) It is able to forgive and forget, and this costs.
 - ii) There can be no forgiveness without someone paying a price.
 - (1) But many of us are bookkeepers.
 - (a) We keep a record of wrongs.
 - (b) We need to learn to forget those things and bury them in the grave of God's forgetfulness and pay the price.
 - (i) It costs to forgive.
- j) True love is sympathetic love.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 13:6
 - (1) It rejoices not in iniquity.

- ii) When someone is in sin, we do not rejoice; we weep.
- iii) What is the sin of the gossiper?
 - (1) The gossiper rejoices in iniquity.
 - (a) When they hear something bad, they cannot wait to tell it.
- iv) This does not mean that we are to overlook sin.
 - (1) Sin has to be faced and dealt with, but do not rejoice in iniquity.
- v) Before we say anything bad about anybody, we need to ask these three questions:
 - (1) Is it true?
 - (2) Even if it is true, is it necessary to tell it?
 - (a) Some things are true that are better not told.
 - (3) If we must tell it, is it kind?
 - (a) Are we telling it in a kind way?
- vi) We should be heartbroken over sin.
- k) True love is suffering love.
 - i) We cannot love without suffering.
 - ii) 1 Corinthians 13:7
 - (1) This does not mean that true love is gullible.
 - (2) One translation says that there is nothing love cannot face.
 - (a) There is no limit to its faith.
 - iii) There is a burden to bear when we love.
 - iv) People want to know why human beings suffer.
 - (1) Some people have lost their faith in God because of the suffering of human beings.
 - (2) God could have made a world where there was no suffering.
 - (a) To do this, He would have had to fail to create people, or He could have created people and given them no will.
 - (i) They would be just machines.
 - 1. He would have had no fellowship with us.
 - v) When God made us, He took a divine risk.
 - (1) He knew that it was going to cost Him when He made us.
 - (a) Just like when we bring children into this world.
 - (i) They can break our hearts.
 - (ii) If we love, then it is going to cost.
 - (2) He knew it was going to cost when He created man and gave man a capacity to sin.
 - (a) He did not make man sin, but in order for man to say “yes,” man had to be able to say “no.”
 - (b) In order for man to be loyal, he had to have the ability to be disloyal.
 - (c) In order for man to choose God, he had to have the ability not to choose God.
 - vi) When God chose to love, God chose to suffer.
 - (1) Isaiah 63:9

- (2) How can God suffer?
 - (a) Does a father suffer when a son does wrong?
 - (i) The story of the prodigal son, in Luke 15, teaches us that when an Earthly child suffers, the Earthly father suffers.
 - 1. In the same way, when we do wrong, the Heavenly Father suffers.
 - (3) Ephesians 4:30
 - (a) Have you ever thought of God being grieved?
 - (b) We can only be grieved by someone we love.
 - (i) God loves us; therefore, the Holy Spirit of God is grieved.
 - (4) Can the body hurt and the head not feel it?
 - (a) The Lord Jesus is the head of the Church.
 - (b) When His body suffers, the Lord Jesus suffers.
 - (c) Acts 9:1-5
 - (i) When Saul was persecuting Christians, he was persecuting Jesus.
 - (d) If there is a faithless bride, then the groom suffers.
 - (i) The groom is the Lord Jesus, and the bride is the Church.
 - vii) There is something about love that chooses to suffer.
 - l) 1 Corinthians 13:7
 - i) That is the kind of love this world needs.
 - (1) This is the fruit of the Spirit.
- 3) THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS LOVE (GALATIANS 5:22)
- a) This love is the fruit of the Spirit.
 - b) Galatians 5:19 speaks of the works of the flesh.
 - i) The works of the flesh are natural.
 - c) The fruit of the Spirit is supernatural.
 - d) The works of the flesh are what sin does in us.
 - e) The fruit of the Spirit is what God does through us.
 - i) This kind of love is not love that we are to produce.
 - ii) We bear this love.
 - (1) John 15:5
 - (a) Jesus did not say that we will produce this fruit.
 - (b) The fruit is the vine's fruit; it is not our fruit.
 - (c) We are to abide in the fruit.
 - (i) The nature of the vine is in us.
 - f) Romans 5:5
 - i) Suppose we have a neighbor we cannot love.
 - (1) We cannot make ourselves love that person; it is not in us.
 - (2) Instead of asking the Lord to help us love that person, simply ask the Lord to love that person through us and make us a channel of His love.
 - ii) This is supernatural love.
 - (1) It comes from the vine and flows to the branches.

- (2) The vine produces the fruit.
 - (3) We do not produce the fruit; we only bear it.
 - g) Suppose we wanted a sour orange tree to bear sweet oranges.
 - i) We could transplant it, rename it, and call it a sweet orange tree.
 - (1) We could even decorate it with sweet oranges, but it would still be a sour orange tree.
 - (2) The nature of that tree has to be changed.
 - ii) If a Valencia bud is grafted into the sour orange tree, then the very nature of that tree is changed.
 - (1) It becomes a partaker of a nature that is not its own.
 - h) The Bible says that when we are saved, we are partakers of the divine nature.
 - i) The nature of God comes into us.
 - ii) This love is not the work of the flesh.
 - (1) It is the work of the Spirit.
 - (a) It is the nature of Almighty God that has been engrafted into us.
- 4) THE DESIRE FOR THIS FRUIT (GALATIANS 5:22)
- a) Fruit is to be consumed.
 - b) The world longs for the beautiful fruit of the Spirit.
 - c) When we allow the Lord to inhabit our humanity and display His deity, it will not be our love but His love.
 - i) It will not be our life; it will be His life.
 - d) How is Christianity spread?
 - i) By the seed that is in the fruit.
 - ii) When we live like Galatians 5:22, then we will reproduce.
- 5) CONCLUSION
- a) You can be saved and then backslide until you cease bearing fruit.
 - b) Healthy trees bear fruit.
 - i) You are to abide in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - ii) Ask the Lord to help you to abide in Him.
 - c) If you want a new nature, then you know that transplanting the tree is not enough, decorating the tree is not enough, renaming the tree is not enough.
 - i) You need to receive Jesus as your Savior.
 - (1) You can be saved right this moment.
 - d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
 - e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16