

Sermon Notes

This is Love: Part 1

May 17th, 2020

- **This is Love:**
- I'm believing for this series to be life changing. Believe with me.
- 1) Love is a Foundational and Indispensable part of Christianity.
 - o From my early years as a believer, **Matthew 5:46-48 (Focus v47)** hit me hard.
 - We are called out to be different. A peculiar people with a "way" about us. (Last Week)
 - Christians should be world leaders in love, with no close second.
 - But, I hear people say things. I know how we are perceived. Not good.
 - o Let's look at some Scriptures: **Matthew 22:36-40, 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 and v13, 1 John 4:7-8 and v20-21, 1 Peter 4:8, Romans 5:8, 1 John 4:10, John 3:16, Colossian 3:12-14.**
 - o Literally 100s of references. We must not dismiss love as unattainable or as fairy tale religion.
- 2) Something will always be missing and broken without love.
 - o This is true for you personally, and is it true for the Body of Christ, the church.
 - Clarify: The guy with the misunderstanding of **1 Corinthians 13:1-3.**
 - o What you love with determine much of your destiny. In this life and in the one to come.
 - If you love money, being right, power/position, wickedness, violence, etc. What will come?
 - If you love God, neighbor, truth, wife, fellow believers, enemies, etc. What will come?
 - o Without love you will never understand the Gospel or the Ways of God.
 - Without love the Gospel itself is sabotaged. Don't be party to that.
 - This could solve the legalism/cheap grace problem!
 - Legalism: trying to follow rules but always falling short because you don't "get it."
 - Cheap Grace: Love believes in your potential. **Rev 3:19, Prov 13:24**
- 3) Truly seek to be made complete in love.
 - o This is a process, so be patient and diligent.
 - **Matthew 5:43-48.** "Perfect" in v48 means complete. Fully grown or mature.
 - o Starts with love for God.
 - If you love God, I want you to do two things:
 - 1) Cultivate the love. The grass is greener where you water it.
 - 2) Let that river flow out. Let your love of God mature into love for others.
 - If you don't love God, then what??? I got 3 things for you:
 - 1) Get to know God. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God loves you right now.
 - 2) Reject lies and biases. There are lots of these in our world.
 - 3) Follow Jesus. Put your faith in God, trust in Him, yield to Him.
 - o Some things of God you can't know until you follow. That's the faith part.
- That's a lot to process. Let's close with **1 John 4:10** and **1 John 4:19.**
 - o None of this makes sense unless you know that God loves you. He does, truly.
- Pray. prayer@goodhope.ag
- I'm glad you were here!