

# Reaching Out By Loving ... Love Is Meeting Needs

I John 3:16-18

God designed human beings for love and from the Book of beginnings, Genesis, to the Book of Revelation there is one command from the Father above all others and that command is to LOVE. What is the first and great commandment? (Deut. 6:5) *"Thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart and with all thy soul and with all they might."* In the New Testament, we are told that the first and greatest commandment is to **love** God with all our hearts and souls and minds. (Matt 22:37-38; Mk 12:30) Let's consider a number of questions as a means of looking at the subject -- LOVE IS MEETING NEEDS! One of the greatest phrases in all the Scripture is the simple, yet profound... **God is Love!** *From that phrase we gather that God is concerned about us in a infinite way.* Love is one of strongest factors in our nature; which bridges distance, defies time, triumphs over impassable barriers, radiates with golden light, changing circumstances and people; it is the mysterious affinity between parent and child, friend and friend, husband and wife.

## **GOD'S LOVE FLOWS TO US THROUGH THE CHANNEL -- THE BELOVED:** Eph. 1:6

It is not that God loves us because our Savior interposed between His wrath and us or that made God have to love us. God did not love us because Jesus died, Jesus died because the Father loved us. (I Jh 4:9,10) Therefore, in Christ, we are accepted in the *Beloved, Christ*, What a gracious truth, a wealth of significance for in the love of the SON, IN Him, I am accepted.

**God's love was not with-held because of our SIN.** (Eph. 2:4; We withhold love for various reason or excuses. Feel we have a legitimate right to withhold our love. We can be hard, harsh, unrelenting, stiff, indifferent. God loved us when we did not deserve it for we were depraved, enemies in our minds, rebellious, transgressors, spurning His love, ignoring it, and refusing it. Yet He loved US. He loved us when we were unlovely. (Isa 64:6; Jer. 17:9) He knew all about us. God loved with a great love, He sought after us, gave us a bestowment of mercy, of grace, of salvation, and the gift of the Savior.

**This is a love that passes knowledge:** (Eph. 3:17-19) We may *apprehend* it; but we can't *comprehend* this kind of love; we *know* it in Christ, but we cannot understand the *immensity* of that love. We can *know* it be personal experience, but will *never attain* unto a full view of it in this life. We know the *expression* of His love, but the total *essence* of it is unknowable to us now. The faithfulness of that love, the tenderness of it surpasses our present comprehension. Why He would love us so! **This is unspeakably precious!**

**This is love expressed in a Supreme Sacrifice:** (Eph. 5:2) True love is giving, giving, to the point of sacrifice. This is agape love. God is love for every thought, act, every word of the Father is an expression of His love, and by His love which is the very essence of His person. His love is a self-effacing love for He loved us when we were in desperate condition. It was a self-sacrificing love for He who is lovely, sinless, pure, and perfect was made sin for us as He became our ransom that we might be redeemed.

**This love passes into and through human hearts:** (Eph. 5:25, 28, 29, 33; II Cor. 5:14) In marriage, in relationships; in daily life, in reality, in action, through faith -- to cherish,

nourish... as Christ cherishes and nourishes the church. His love is shed abroad in our hearts. to be given to others around us. (Rom. 5:5; John 13:34,35)

## HOW CAN WE DEMONSTRATE THIS LOVE?

**How do I love God?** *He doesn't have any needs. How am I going to show God that I love him... if love is meetings needs?* **Consider** Matthew 25:35-40. **We show love to God by what we do toward Him, and toward Christ? HOW?** To the extent that we do (service) unto others in need.. **we do it unto Christ.** When we love people in Jesus' name, we are loving Jesus. When those *who are precious to Jesus become precious to us... to you.. then* you are loving God with all your *heart and soul and mind.* You are not really loving Jesus until you become a **channel of his love in meeting needs.** Then in Matthew 22:39; and Mark 12:31 we are told that the second commandment is to *love thy neighbor as thy self.*

**The test of Christian love is meeting needs!** (I Jh 3:16-18; I Jh 3:16) Christian love involves sacrifice and service. Look at I John 3:17. Christ did not simply **talk** about His love; He died to prove it (Rom. 5:6-10). Jesus was not killed as a martyr; He willingly laid down His life (Jh 10:11-18; 15:13). *Self-preservation* may be the first law of physical life, but *self-sacrifice* is the first law of **spiritual** life.

**We demonstrate love by loving the unlovely.** Remember, when Jesus becomes LORD of your life, you forfeit forever the right to choose whom you will love. We must be **loving**, serving forever is on God's terms, not ours. You may feel you love the world but do you love that difficult person? *"But he is cantankerous you say, and I don't love him, I could love almost anyone but not that person."* Why were we left here on planet earth?? So that God can **love** through us... minister through us and bring people to Christ through us. (Rom.5:5) The quality of Christ's love was demonstrated on the Cross. What **kind of feeling** did Jesus have when he died on the Cross for us? It was not a feeling that sent him to the Cross, dear friend... it was **our need that send him** there. He had a deep feeling for us, but the feeling came because he looked down at our sin, and saw our deep need. **Agape** love **transcended the agony** of the cross. By His act he said, *"I will meet you needs."* He saw our need and met it.

## HOW CAN HIS LOVE FLOW THROUGH US?

**The importance of His love through us!** God tells us that *he that loveth not knoweth not God.* (I Jh 4:8) What God is telling us is that *"as He is, so are we in this world."* **(4:17)** The fact that Christians love one another is evidence of their *fellowship* with God and their *sonship* from God, and is also evidence that they *know* God. **Does our life show we know God?** *A person who claims he knows God and is in union with Him must be personally affected by this relationship.* A Christian ought to **become what God is and God is LOVE!**

**That Love is to be SEEN in deed and in truth... not word or tongue only!** (I Jh 3:18) True Christian love means loving in **deed and in truth.** The **contrast** is to love in *tongue* and *words* with nothing concrete about such love. To love in **word** means simply to *talk* about a need, but to love in **deed** means to do something about meeting it. Verse 17 is the verse that demonstrates love in **action...in deed...** look also at **James 2:15-16.** To love in **tongue** is to love **insincerely...** to love in **truth** is to love **genuinely**, from the heart and not just from the tongue. We are to even love our **enemies** and to pray for those who persecute us. (Matt. 5:43-44) How do you love your enemies? *Find someone you love and then treat your enemy the very same way... love is treating all people the very same way.* When Jesus became your

Savior and Lord, you **forfeited the right to choose** whom you will love. Love is **not showing** favoritism. **James 2:8-9**... The royal law is "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*"

For your circles of influence, your circles of responsibility -- **Pray, Father**, "*reveal their needs to me..Here I am, you know all the responsibilities I have; but wherever I go and whomever my life touches... I will be salt... I will be salt to touch and preserve... to help and to heal... and I will be light to show the way... Lord just allow me to meet needs, to love those around me in a practical way.*"

*"Father, engineer circumstances in the lives of those around me so I can minister to them... help me see their needs."*

## **HOW CAN WE WHO ARE SINFUL, WEAK, FAILING -- GIVE GOD'S LOVE?**

Genuine, God-given agape love does not depend upon feelings... *Feelings* fluctuate; love is *stable*. Love stems from a deep motivation and that motivation does not come from circumstances.

**The resource of meeting needs** -- You don't meet needs from the reservoir of your own ability. (Rom. 5:5; Eph. 1:23) God planned for HIS LOVE to flow through our life and for HIM to reach out to others and meet their needs through us! That is awesome and so frequently we act as though it all depends upon us. We are to be that **channel** -- a yielded, available, surrender, and clean vessel. God desires to build a relationship cemented by His love. **So YOU can seek to build a relationship with anyone and God can draw that person to himself through that relationship.** We must remember God loves all those difficult people and He can give you ability to shower forth His love through you.

**The motive for meeting needs:** You do not get your motivation from loving people enough but from loving HIM, the Savior and Lord, the Heavenly Father who urges you to go. You and I are not the source of meeting needs, but we are the channel. Our love for God must precede our love for the lost... for the needy... for those in all our circles of concern. How much do YOU love God? **This is your motivation!**

**Do we LOVE GOD?**

**Or Do We LOVE OURSELVES and want to be served?**