



Part 9 of Luminous

Sunday, November 22, 2020

The Bible says God is love. Maybe a better way to explain this vital truth is that true love is found in God. You can not love without first experiencing the love of God.

¹ The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. ² Day after day they continue to speak; night after night, they make him known.^m ³ They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. ⁴ Yet their message has gone throughout the earth and their words to all the world. Psalm 19:1-4

¹ Only fools say in their hearts, "There is no God." They are corrupt, and their actions are evil; not one of them does good! Psalm 14:1

Setting the Scene:

- Who is God? God is eternal, never changes, all-powerful, all-knowing, all present, and His love and care is infinite. We can find refreshment in this truth and for others. Love starts with God, not us. The Source of all Love is God. It is not just an action, but central to the character of who God is.

Greek has four words to depict four different kinds of love: (1) eros for sexual passion, (2) storge for family devotion, (3) philo for friendship, and (4) agape for loving-kindness. The fourth word was used exclusively by John to characterize God's Love. It speaks of compassion, regard, kindness, and unselfishness. This kind of love motivated God to send his Son to the world to die for undeserving sinners.¹

- Suppose we attempt to summon up human love from the depths of our imperfect hearts. This kind of love is limited, lacks purity, and lacks the vitality of love coming from God. Notice, this text does not say He is loving; that is true, but it says He is Love. This is the foundation of the Word of God, our gatherings, our reactions to people around us.
- Loving the other person is an outflow of God's Love for you ("A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another,"
- We know God is Love. What one word would describe you?
- We become more like Him by loving like Him.

ἀγαπητός, loved, beloved, with two special applications, (a) ὁ ἀγαπητός, the Beloved, a title of the Messiah (Christ), as beloved beyond all others by the God who sent Him; (b) of Christians, as beloved by God, Christ, and one another.²

Perfect Love ...

1. Comes From God (Vs. 7-10)

- Within all of us, there exists a strong desire to be known and to know others
- This is proven through Jesus Christ. We see this Love through Him!
- He expresses his love in giving (vs9) . He could have said; you missed the mark; you are lost forever. He says I love you, and I will pay that cost you can not pay.
- The call for loving one another is to experience God first.
- He expressed his love in dying—he sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice (4:10).

¹ Barton, B. B., & Osborne, G. R. (1998). [1, 2 & 3 John](#) (p. 94). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House.

² Souter, A. (1917). [A Pocket Lexicon to the Greek New Testament](#) (p. 3). Oxford: Clarendon Press.

- He expressed his love in forgiving—He removes sin so believers can have confidence in the Lord.

¹⁰For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. Romans 5:10

2. Allows us to Love One Another (Vs. 11-17)

"Love is that which forgives the most and condones the least" – CS Lewis

"Stated baldly, charity certainly means one of two things—pardoning unpardonable acts, or loving unlovable people." G.K. Chesterton

- The Full Expression of His Love is found in Him. (Vs. 12)

The Greek describes a goal that is reached, something that is fully accomplished and finished to perfection. It's complete and whole in every aspect. Like when you finish a puzzle or unlock all the achievements. For the believer, this means embodying true, genuine, sacrificial, *agape* love for one another. If we do not love like Jesus, we will never see the completed puzzle.

- Introduce
- Invite
- Include
- Initiate
- Forgive

Vs. 13-15- Know we live in Him and He in us. We can know this by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our life. The H.S. changes us from the inside out. He convicts, He comforts, He gives us Power. Can be people around you see God's work in you?

His love should be our foundation (vs 15), identity (vs 16), source of growth(vs. 17)confidence(Vs 18)

3. Expels All Fear (Vs. 16-21)

Love is not based on fear. IF you want to stop fear from ruling your life, put your faith and trust in Him, the author of love.

One Last Thought: We love because he first loved us. While we were still enemies of God, he loved us. As we grow in God's Love for us, we can't help but grow in our love (which is His Love) for those around us.