

Bill Berry

SESSION 1 | Love One Another

I. Introduction

- A. There are 59 one another references in the New Testament.
- B. There is a focus on community:
 - Genesis 1: The Trinity
 - Old Testament: Israel (A covenant community of God's people)
 - New Testament Church (A covenant community of God's people)
- C. Other Key References:
 - Genesis 1:28: be fruitful....multiply....fill the earth....subdue it (to subdue is a group/community/family effort) the command to subdue the earth is too great a task to preform as individuals.
 - Great Commission: to grand a task to undertake without the Body of Christ
 - The Church: One Body with many members (1 Corinthians 12:12-31)
 - Heaven: Revelation 7:8: "doing eternity with one another"
 - Creation- Covenant- Church- Commission- Culmination God intends for us to be and do together as HIS people.

Look," they say, "how they love one another" (*for they themselves (pagans) hate one another*); "and how they are ready to die for each other" (*for they themselves (pagans) are readier to kill each other*).

- Tertullian

Love: "giving of oneself in the service to others."

- D. John's Gospel

II. Loving One Another: An Act of Glorifying Christ (13:31-32)

- A. Glorifying God: According to Christopher Ash “primarily when God shows himself to us.” Glory is the outward shining of God’s inward being.
- B. Where John’s Gospel gives 7 signs that Jesus is the Son of Man, Jesus gives his children 1 sign that they are his sons and daughters.

III. Love Authenticates the Christian (13.33-35)

Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

- A. *Love is the chief mark of our authenticity-*

*"If I belittle those whom I am called to serve, talk of their weak points in contrast perhaps with what I think of as my strong points; if I adopt a superior attitude, forgetting "Who made thee to differ? And what hast thou that thou hast not received?" then I know nothing of Calvary love." -
-Amy Carmichael*

- Without love for one another there is no credible-tangible evidence of the new birth (1 John 4:20)
 - While Jesus is with the disciples people know they are his disciples. When he is gone, how will the people know that they are still Christ’s disciples? Their love for one another.
 - What are our preeminent memories of Christian Fellowship?
- B. Alternatives to Love
 - Right Belief:
 - Religious Zeal, passion or experience:
 - Spiritual Gifts: We all have gifts to use in service 1 Cor 12: 13-14 We are empty if we have gifts without love.

IV. Definition of Love

- giving of oneself as a servant (washing feet-atonement)
- willingness to serve one another
- to want the best for one another
- do costly things that will bring the best to others-

With this definition of love, how can we love one another?

- Christians are family!
- A new command - not new in a sense of timing but in a sense of the quality of love: Jesus' Calvary love
- Calvary love makes us family! Families love each other-Family love over flows!

Quick Overview of 31-35

- Basis for love: By this..... example of Jesus for the believers
- Extent of love:all people
- Certainty of love:.....By this all men will know
- Objective:..... All men will know we are his disciples
- Confirmation: if we lovethen all men will know

The manifestation of the Spirit of Christ among his people is that we love one another.

- Jesus gives the example: foot washing-
- Jesus gives us the command: love one another
- Jesus gives the outcome: they will know you are mine
- Jesus gives the reason: the gospel

V. Conclusion: A Warning from the Life of Peter

Lord where are you going?