TEXT: I Corinthians 13:4-13

LOVE PEOPLE (Part I)

Accent vs. #13 – “And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of theses is charity.”

Definition: Love is when you decide to act your best when those around you are not acting their best. Love is putting others before you.

Proverbs 15:17 – “Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.”

Love isn’t infatuation. Love is deeper than that. God’s love will endure no matter what comes against it.

We pursue so many adventures and reach for so many successes in life, but are we really cultivating our love walk with others? Do those around us see a difference in our personality as a follow of Christ, over those who don’t know Jesus?
The root of our love is grounded in our relationship with Christ.

Ephesians 3:17 – “...that ye being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length, and depth and height: and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.”

I John 4:16, says it so well, “God is love; and he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him.”

I John 4:87 – “He that loveth not, knoweth not God; for God is love.”

READ: I John 3:10-16.

QUESTION ? ? ? HOW DOES ONE KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SHOWING AND DEMONSTRATING GOD’S LOVE TO SOMEONE OR BEING TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF ?????

ANSWER: Here are some verses that might help you distinguish the difference.

- Matthew 10:16
- I Thessalonians 4:6
- Romans 16: 17-19
- Proverbs 10:9
- Proverbs 4:5 (Wisdom)
- Proverbs 1:5 (Wisdom)

See: II Thessalonians 3:10 states that if a person is able to work, he should. If he won’t work, then he won’t eat.

We’re not talking about individuals who have certain health or physical issues that could hinder them from working.

Don’t let another drain you so you have no $ financial $ future. We are suppose to help those less fortunate but not to the point we suffer losses and are emotionally and spiritually drained.

REMEMBER : Everything you do should be done with glorifying Jesus in your heart and mind.

SEE: Colossians 3:17 & 23
I Corinthians 10:31
Ephesians 6:7 (Doing service as to the Lord and not unto men)
I Corinthians 4:2 (Be faithful)

YOUR LOVE FOR PEOPLE IS DRIVEN BY YOUR LOVE FOR GOD.
LOVE GOD (Part II)

- Deuteronomy 6:5 and Matthew 22:37, say basically the same thing, that we should love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind.
- Deuteronomy 10:12 asks a question of us. “What does the Lord require of thee?”
- Psalm 31:23
- Jude #21 – “Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”
- John 14:15 – “If ye love Me, keep my commandments.”
- Jeremiah 31:3 - …” Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love…”

NOTE: If He loved us that much (John 3:16), shouldn’t we also love Him back by total SURRENDER, SACRIFICE & SERVICE?

- Romans 5:8 – “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
- Ephesians 2:4 & 5 (READ)
- Psalm 31:23 – “Oh love the Lord, all ye His saints, for the Lord preserveth the faithful and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.”

EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHO HAD THE LOVE OF GOD:

1) Stephen (Acts 7:55)
2) Those That Were Martyrs (Revelation 12:11 – Loved not their lives unto death)

3) John the Baptist (Mark 6:27) John the Baptist loved God enough to preach the truth to people. He even upset Herodius to the point she strategically had him murdered. (See: Mark 6:17-20)

4) Jesus (overthrowing the $ money $ changers in the temple) Matthew 21:12 / John 2:15 - “...make not my Father’s house an house of merchandise.”

LOVE YOURSELF (Part III)

1) Romans 7:16 & 17 (heirs with God)
2) John 15:9 (Jesus’ love to us)
3) Romans 8:37 (more than conquerors)
4) Psalm 103:12 (When you’ve repented, God forgives you, so forgive yourself!)

NOTE: HOW CAN YOU LOVE YOURSELF IF YOU HAVEN’T FORGIVEN YOURSELF FROM YOUR FORMER, PAST SINS, FAILURES AND MISTAKES. (You can’t. So, forgive yourself)

NOTE: HOW CAN YOU LOVE OTHER PEOPLE IF YOU DON’T LOVE YOURSELF? (Matthew 22:39 – “…Thou shalt love thy neighbor, as thyself.”)
- I John 4:8 - "..."God is love."
- John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world..."
- John 15:9 – "...so have I loved you..."

EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHO DEMONSTRATED THEIR LOVE FOR JESUS:

- Mary Magdalene (John 20:11)
- Peter (John 21:16)
- The Sinful Woman (Luke 7:47)
- Mary of Bethany (John 12:3)

CLOSING VERSE: JUDE 21 – “Keep yourselves in the love of God....”

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