

“The Love Which You Have Shown Toward His Name”

Heb 6:10

Intro: Subject of love as referred to in the Bible is vast.

- A. Could spend hours exploring all the passages dealing with the various aspects of love.
- B. Greeks had several words for love:
 - 1) “*Eros*” - Romantic love; never used in the Bible
 - 2) “*Stergeo*” - Natural affection, familial love. Used only in the negative in NT - Rom 1:31, 2 Tim 3:1-3
 - 3) “*Phileo*” - Brotherly love, tender affection - Used often
 - 4) “*Agape*” - Benevolent, sacrificial, serving love. Used over 300 X in NT.
 - 5) Most reflexively think of 1 Cor 13 - The “Love Chapter”
- C. Aside from merely mentioning love, Bible speaks often about how love is shown.
 - 1) Our text **Heb 6:9-12** gives much insight as to how love for God is shown. **READ TEXT**

I. Love for God is shown by serving the saints. - Gal 5:13

- A. Real devotion to God looks for ways to show love to those who love Him!
 - 1) It’s a circle; the gift that gives back!
 - 2) It’s how we are distinguished as Jesus’ disciples
 - a. **John 13:34-35** “*A new commandment I give to you..*”
 - 3) W/O love for one another, we must sincerely question our love for God.
 - a. **1 John 3:11-16, 4:20**
- B. The challenge to be willing to lay our lives down for one another is real!
 - 1) Jesus proved it by His own example.
 - 2) *Jerome, early religious historian, relates of the Apostle John that when he became old he used to go among the churches and assemblies everywhere repeating the words, “Little children, love one another.” His disciples, wearied by the constant repetition, asked him why he always said this. “Because,” he replied, “it is the Lord’s commandment; and if it only be fulfilled, it is enough.”*

II. Love for God is shown by ministering to the saints’ physical needs

- A. We get our example from Jesus: “*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve..*” **Mark 10:45**
- B. Real love looks for ways to show it.
 - 1) Not some mushy, warm & fuzzy love
 - 2) It is a decision; a commitment backed up by action!
- C. It is a sensible recognition of our brethren’s needs
 - 1) **1 John 3:17-20**
 - a. *After church a little boy from poorer family was sent to market to get a few staples. Upon coming out, he trips and breaks the eggs, spills the milk, makes a big mess. One man from church surveying the gawking crowd says “I care \$2.00 worth. How much do the rest of you care?”*
 - b. God sees our motives and our missed opportunities!
 - 2) **James 2:14-17**
 - a. Faith is exhibited by showing love in real, substantial, tangible, meaningful ways
- D. By “*Faith working through love*” we are fellow workers with the truth.
 - 1) **3 John :5-8**
 - 2) “*Do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*” **Heb 13:16**
 - 3) Hospitality towards God’s people goes a long way!
 - a. Feed the preacher during a gospel meeting!

III. Love for God is shown by ministering to saints' spiritual needs

A. Too often we over-emphasize the physical w/o tending to the spiritual

- 1) By doling out \$\$ we feel we've done our duty!
- 2) Maybe we don't want to seem confrontational so we overlook the faults that are the REAL causes of a saint's trouble or we treat the symptoms instead of getting to the root of the problem.
- 3) **1 Cor 5** spends one verse on the offender and the rest of chapter on the church that would do nothing about it!
- 4) Robert Turner told of how he was approached by man upset that another young man was getting away with sin because of \$\$, family ties, church politics, etc. Turner said, "YOU go & appeal to the boy on basis of obligation to God." "Me?" asked the man. "You must be nuts! Besides, the family might turn on me & I'll lose their business!" Turner asked again what the trouble was. "Well," said the man, "THEY won't do anything about sin. THEY'RE too wrapped up \$\$, their family ties & little cliques. THEY Won't get involved! Why, THEY...." He stopped short, embarrassed as he recognized the real problem.
- 5) If we want to do any good in the church, it must start with ME! - **Eph 4:15-16**

B. Note the spiritual emphasis of **Gal 6:1-10**

- 1) Doing good may involve speaking frankly about sin.
- 2) "*Am I therefore your enemy, because I tell you the truth?*" **Gal 4:16**
 - a. On the contrary! You're my greatest friend & show me REAL love & concern by telling me the truth.
 - b. **James 5:19-20**
 - c. ILL: "Give Me The Truth!"
 - d. "*Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another because love covers a multitude of sins.*" **1 Ptr 4:8**

C. It's our duty toward one another and everyone must have a part!

- 1) Let it be deeply ingrained in us
 - a. **1 Thes 4:9-10**
- 2) **READ AGAIN HEB 6:9-12**

Conc There's no doubt about what the Bible says concerning how we show love.

A. BUT, our love for God, even our love for one another, can only be because of God's love for us.

- 1) "*We love, because He first loved us.*" **1 John 4:19**
- 2) "*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*" **Rom 5:8**

GIVE ME THE TRUTH

Bill Crews

If you are my friend, if you are concerned about my soul, give me the Truth. Do not flatter me. Do not praise virtues while remaining silent about my vices. Do not fear the Truth will offend me. Do not treasure our friendship, our friendly relations, above my salvation. Do not think by ignoring my sins, you can help me. Do not think that being blind to my sins will make you charitable. However I may react to it, whatever may be my attitude toward you after you have done it, GIVE ME THE TRUTH!

For the Truth, and ONLY the Truth, can make me free from the shackles of sin, strengthen me in the pathway of righteousness and lead me into the joys of Heaven. If I am wavering, weak, lukewarm, indifferent, neglectful; if I have been overtaken in a trespass; if I have been drawn into the pleasures of the world; if I have left my first love; if I have been led astray by error, or if I have done none of these things, but simply need to grow in knowledge and then be edified, GIVE ME THE TRUTH!