**For God So Loved the World**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**John 3:16-17**

**Sunday Morning**

**February 14, 2021**

**John 15:9-15**

9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

**Do you believe God loves you?**

We just read John 3:16-17, which clearly states that because God loved the world, He sent His Son so those who believe in Him would never perish. We usually think of God’s love as generally applying to everyone, but maybe not specifically to us personally.

However, the Lord wants us to know we’re loved by Him and to love Him in return. Only then will we be able to give and receive love in our relationships as He desires.

To understand how important love is to God, we need only look at His Word.

**In the Old Testament there are 250 mentions of love**

**In the New Testament uses love 234 times**

**72 times the word love is found in John’s gospel and epistles**

**There are 4 types of Biblical love translated from the Greek**

**Storge – Empathy or Family Bond**

**Philia – Friendship or Brotherly Bond**

**Eros – Intimate Love, Mind Body & Soul**

**reserved for Marriage**

**Agape – Unconditional Love from God**

**1 John 4:7-11**

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**We Need To Explore Love Lessons Through The Issues Of The Heart**

Saints, since love is such an essential part of our lives, we need to understand what it truly is.

**1. Love is more than an Emotion**

It’s a commitment to another person

**2. Love is not Free**

It actually demands something of us. We can’t live for ourselves in isolation and at the same time love someone else

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

**3. Love looks beyond the Flesh**

Its focus is the heart and spirit of a person, not the external appearance. The connection is both emotional and cerebral, not merely a physical attraction.

**4. Lust has nothing to do with genuine Love**

Our world has substituted lust for love, and this has become very obvious in the sexual revolution, which is still continuing to this day. Lust is focused on self—what I want or need from the other person. But love is concerned for the loved one—what I can do for him or her.

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

**5. Love cannot be Bought**

It’s a gift that is given freely, and one that is received without cost

**6. Love desires to give with no strings Attached**

It doesn’t demand that the other person be a certain way or do what is desired before love is given. Genuine love is freely bestowed without qualifications or requirements.

**7. Love is generous and Unselfish**

True love is other-centered, not self-centered. It’s always looking for ways to give, not ways to get.

**8. Love is more fulfilled in giving than in Receiving**

Those who genuinely love others find great satisfaction in generously giving to them. They are especially gratified when they can supply what someone else really needs or desires.

**9. Love is Forgiving**

Carrying the weight of anger, resentment, bitterness, or jealousy chokes a person’s spirit and hinders the ability to truly love others.

**Hebrews 8:12-13**

12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." 13 In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

**10. Love desires to express Itself**

Love is demonstrative and must be expressed. When God’s love is in us, it flows out in sacrificial giving.

**11. Love is a Happy Emotion**

The happiest people are not those who have everything money can buy, but those who know how to love.

**12. Love enjoys seeing others Happy**

That’s because the focus is not on getting for self but in sacrificing for others. In seeing the pleasure others experience, there is great enjoyment.

**13. Love is fulfilling and enables us to feel Complete**

When we know how to give and receive love, it gives us a sense of completeness, competence, and worthiness.

**14. Love hurts when others Hurt**

Genuine love is characterized by compassion and mercy expressed either through direct interaction or more distantly through prayer.

**15. Love does not keep Accounts**

There is no record of who did what for whom. Love is not a matter of paying and receiving, but of giving without expectation of return.

**16. Love may be very Painful**

This is especially true if the love isn’t mutual. It may require repeated forgiveness.

**17. Love doesn’t require anything in Return**

There are no conditions or requirements placed on the other person before love is freely given.

**18. Love is Patient**

It waits until the proper time, whereas lust wants immediate gratification. If ultimatums are given, it’s not genuine love.

**19. Christ’s death on the cross is the perfect example of Love**

Jesus came into the world He loved to give His life as a ransom for sin, yet few people loved Him in return. When we continue to love unresponsive, ungrateful people, we are following Christ’s example. This is possible because after we accept Him as our Savior and Lord, He pours His love into our hearts, enabling us to love others no matter how ugly they behave toward us.

**20. Love is its own Reward**

Knowing that we are loved by God and being able to love Him in return is an amazing blessing. It sustains us when we feel forsaken and unloved by others. And if loved ones die or leave us, we have a Friend who will never desert us

Saints, Love isn’t found in advice from magazines, books, or people. God is the source through Jesus Christ, His Son, and the place to look is the Bible.

It begins with accepting the death of Jesus Christ on the cross as the greatest act of love ever shown. He died to pay our sin debt in full. And when we believe in Him and repent of our sins, all the mess we’ve made of our lives is washed away.

Our sins are forgiven, and God will remember them no more. Now His love is poured out in our hearts, enabling us to love Him in return and to receive and give love to others. If we don’t have Christ and His love in us, our lives are empty, and we are poor, needy, and wretched.

The only One who can satisfy our longings is the One who died for us on the cross. His love for us is beyond all explanation and human comprehension.

**1. Do you feel loved by God?**

**2. Why or why not?**

**3. What does God’s Word say about His love for you?**

**Romans 5:8**

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

**Romans 8:36-39**

36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**4. Are you able to give love, or is something hindering you from expressing it freely to others?**

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**