

UNDERSTANDING LOVE & THE USE OF OUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS (Romans 12:9)

I. Misconceptions About “Love”

A. Love’s Confusion In Society...

1. Some think love is a “_____”
2. Others think love is “_____”

B. Love’s Confusion in Christendom...

1. Many churches think that love is _____ of false doctrine.
2. Many churches equate love with ecumenical _____: Let’s love everyone for the sake & furtherance of _____, but often it is at the expense of _____!

II. Biblical Clarification of Love

A. Greek Words and Their Meanings About Love

1. “eros”
2. “storge”
3. “phileo”
4. “agapao”

B. The Source of True Agape Love Is _____!

1. Only God has the corner on this type of _____ (John 3:16)
- “Agape love” - demands I do what is _____ for the one loved in light of _____ no matter what the _____! (1 John 4:9-11, 3:16)
2. This same love is _____ in the believer by the _____ who dwells in us! (Rom. 5:5)

C. The Relationship Between “Truth & Love”

1. What does the bible teach? (1 Corinthians 13)
 - a. (13:13) – tells us the greatest Christian _____ is _____.

b. (13:6) – tells us the greatest of all is _____.

2. Why is the truth (doctrine) the greatest of all?

- a. Because truth (doctrine) gives _____ and _____ to God's love
- b. We cannot understand the _____ without the _____!
- c. When truth is compromised for the sake of love or unity, the truth is _____!
- d. Without truth (doctrine), no one can be _____!

Principle: “*Christian* _____ *never* _____ *biblical* _____!”

The **point:** God has locked Himself into saving sinners via the _____ (the _____) – whether it is presented with _____ or not!

Philippians 1:9-ff - Paul rejoiced or was _____ that the truth of Christ was being preached even though Christian love was _____!

Galatians 4:13-16 & 1:6-9 - So Paul was _____ when their love was present toward him, while the _____ of the gospel had been _____!

Ephesians 4

The Great Commission (Mt 28:18-20)

III. The Desire For Love In the Believer's Life (12:9)

A. **That Our Love Would Be** _____ (12:9a) ... “*let love be without* _____!”

“hypocrisy”=

B. **Our love Should Be** _____ (12:9b)

1. Negatively – we are to “_____ that which is _____”!

2. Positively – genuine love “_____ (sticks to) to that which is _____”!