

LOVE

Theme: Love 19

Discipleship groups purpose: Each member being transformed into the image of the Son.

Key Truth: Without love we are nothing.

Key Scripture: *1 Corinthians 13:2 If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.*

Read: We can prophecy. We can know all the mysteries of the kingdom and have all knowledge. We can have faith that moves mountains. We can do all these things but if we don't have love we are nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:2 If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

This for some may appear very harsh but the Truth is just that, the Truth. We either want the Truth that makes us completely free or we want the truth that makes us feel good and happy. Truth is not subjective, Truth is Truth and we must know the Truth if it is to transform us into His image.

The love Paul is referring to is not human love but the love of 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, the love we have been looking at in depth.

This is how important it is that we hold this love as the highest and most dearest to us and that we pursue love or God, until we have this love in us and are able to operate from love. Love is the highest accolade in God's kingdom, and He teaches us if we don't have love but can do all these things in His name, we are nothing.

How offensive is this to you? To know you can prophesy, have knowledge and operate in faith, seeing the miraculous happen, but still be nothing. Why does God go to these great lengths to teach us this truth? Because it's not about doing what we think is right in the way we think it is right, but it is about His Will being accomplished through His Way, so all the Works flow out of the right heart posture.

God gives us a command to love one another as He loves us. What would be the point to be able to prophesy, have knowledge and heal blind ears and eyes, only to realise that you yourself were deaf and blind to the number one command of God, which is to love as He loves.

Man will always look to do what he can do rather than look to do what he can not do. It's amazing how Peter before Acts was able to walk on water, cast out demons, preach the gospel and yet wasn't able to love God or deny SELF. I suggest to us this is why we are nothing, because all these things like prophecy, knowledge, moving mountains etc. are all done from using His name and gifting's but from the motive of SELF.

What I find extremely interesting is that God allows all this to happen, even though it is not His Way. When love is not our first placed posture then lust or self is and lust or self is only ever interested in building its own empire or ministry. Yes it's all done in Jesus' name but it is not done in His Will, Way or Work, hence we run the risk of hearing away from Me, I never knew you. Depart from Me you who practice lawlessness.

If Jesus could do nothing of eternal value and worth from His own initiative, do we really think we can? We can do things with gifts and callings that are irrevocable but this doesn't mean these works are eternal works in alignment to Father's Will and Way.

Those who practise lawlessness are those who practice sin.

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1 John 3:4 *Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.*

The bible in Hebrews 1:8 says that God hates lawlessness but loves righteousness. It is fully possible to continue to live an intentional life of sin, making excuses for it by saying, well God still loves me and His grace covers me, which is not grace at all, while still operating in the gifts God has given you. This is why God says you can do all this and be nothing. This is not biblical. It is not the position to be in at all, and serious repentance and turning is required by this person, otherwise they run the risk of God's wrath.

The One who knew no sin became sin that we may become the righteousness of God and live born again lives of righteousness. God didn't give His life that we remain living intentional lives of lawlessness.

We are to receive His love for us, be matured and perfected in His love and minister in the gifts from this position in Christ. This is the true kingdom position in the Father.

Questions:

1. What stood out the most for you from what you just heard?
2. Why is it you can operate in gifting's but still hear you are nothing?
3. Why is this position offensive to people?
4. When does this position not become offensive to people and why?
5. Why does God love righteousness and hate lawlessness?

Action: What is one thing you need to put in place from going through this resource?