

Sunday, March 3, 2019

Love

Open

Bible Trivia

1. 1 Cor. 13:13 - And now abide, faith, hope and love these three; but the greatest of these is _____ (love)
2. Col. 3:14 - But above all these things put on _____, which is the bond of perfection (love)
3. John 13:35 - By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have _____ for one another (love).

There are so many powerful forces impacting our world today. We have natural forces, supernatural forces and even man-made forces. But there is nothing more powerful than **LOVE**.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (AMPC)

Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end].

The Power Of Love

1. Luke 19:1-10 - Zacchaeus
2. John 8:1-11 - Woman caught in adultery

Learn to beLOVED

You Are Loved

1. John 3:16, 17
 - a. You cannot give what you do not have. God's love is so powerful that you have to be **in it and stay in it** in order to **give it out**.
 - b. John 15:9 - *abide in my love*

You Are Accepted

Can God really accept you?

1. Eph 1:3-6
 - a. Many Christians, who know the WORD, don't doubt God's love for them. But they doubt His acceptance of them. Many believe that God is simply **tolerating** them.
 - b. What a revelation to see, know and believe that you are fully pleasing to God.
2. 2 Kings 4:32-37
 - a. Elisha here is a picture of Jesus covering our sin and deadness.
 - b. When God looks at us he does not see our deadness! He sees HIS SON (fully accepted and fully pleasing to HIM).

You Are Cherished

1. Eph 5:25-29
 - a. Cherish implies protection and closeness, *lit.* to keep warm; to cherish with tender love and tender care
 - b. God tenderly cares for us.

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You Matter (Belong)

1. Rom 12:5 - we belong to one another
2. 1 Cor 12:12-18
 - a. Problems arise when we look at ourselves in comparison to others.
 - b. Because we are different, we assume that we do not fit in. But we are supposed to be different.
 - i. EXAMPLE: What if your foot was jealous of your hand and decided to stop walking? What if your hand and foot were mad that they were not the head?
 - ii. God expects us to work together as seamlessly as our physical body works together.

Scriptures

Luke 19:1-10 - Zacchaeus

John 8:1-11 - Woman caught in adultery

1 Tim 1:12-16 - Paul "chief of all"

Ephesians 5:25-29 - cherish

John 15:9 - abide in Christ's love

Eph 1:3-6 - accepted in the beloved

2 Kings 4:32-37 - Elisha and the Shunemites son

Rom 12:5 - we belong to one another

1 Cor 12:12-18 - we are individual members of one body