

## Love One Another Deeply – CGYG & LIFE Fellowships (January 16, 2009)

### Jesus on love

- Jesus commands us, as His disciples, to love one another as He loved us (John 13:34; John 15:9-17)
- The reality of our claim to be His disciples is demonstrated by our love for one another (John 13:35)
- Love for one another stems from God's love for us, as we continue in His love and live in obedience to Him (John 15:9-12)
- Loving one another as Christ loved us means sacrificing ourselves for others (John 15:12-14)
- Loving one another means humble service – the example of Jesus washing His disciples' feet (John 13:1-5, 12-17)
- Our love needs to extend not just to followers of Christ, but to others as well, even to our enemies (Matt. 5:43-48)

### Peter on love

- Genuine love for one another flows from our new birth in Christ (1 Peter 1:22-23)
- We grow in love as we feed on the Word of God (1 Peter 1:22-23, 2:1-3)
- Love is the highest of Christian virtues (1 Peter 4:8a; 2 Peter 1:5-8)
- Love for one another involves both attitudes and actions
  - Getting rid of negative attitudes & actions (1 Peter 2:1; 1 Peter 4:8a,9)
  - Developing loving attitudes:
    - Earnestness/fervency of love for one another (1 Peter 1:22-23)
    - Respect/honor for one another (1 Peter 2:17)
    - Sympathy & compassion towards others; a humble attitude (1 Peter 3:8)
  - Developing loving actions:
    - Acting in ways that promote harmony; treating others with compassion and humility (1 Peter 3:8)
    - Forgiving/overlooking others' sins against you (1 Peter 4:8)
    - Serving one another with the gifts God has given you (1 Peter 4:7-11)

### John on love

- Loving one another is not a new message
  - Has been a central theme of Christianity since the beginning (1 John 3:11; 2 John 1:6)
  - Not merely an optional duty, but proof that a person has truly been born again (1 John 4:7)
- Love for one another involves both attitudes and actions
  - Getting rid of negative attitudes & actions: *envy* → *hate/murder* (1 John 3:12-15)
  - Developing loving attitudes

- *Love one another as God / Jesus Christ loved us.*(John 15:12-14; 1 John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-12)
  - *Sharing possessions and having pity* (1 John 3:17-18)
- *Getting rid of negative attitudes & actions: A WARNING!!!!* (1 John 2:9-11; 1 John 3:14-15,18-20; 1 John 4:8,20-21)

#### Paul on love

- Love is paramount (Romans 13:8; Colossians 3:12-14; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 13)
- True love is grounded in truth (1 Timothy 1:3-5; 1 Corinthians 13:6)
  - Falsehood promotes controversy & dissension; inhibits love and loving relationships → tears down
  - Teaching & speaking the truth in love builds up, even if that truth by necessity has a hard edge (i.e. rebuke) (Eph. 4:14-16; 2 Corinthians 2:2-4)
    - but beware – knowledge/truth without love just “puffs up” (with pride) (1 Cor. 8:1-3)
- Love involves getting rid of negative attitudes & actions towards others (Gal. 5:13-15; Rom. 13:9; Rom. 12:9-17; Eph. 4:15,29; Rom. 14:13-15; 1 Cor. 13:4-6)
- Love means sharing our lives with one another → caring for and encouraging one another (Rom. 12:9a,15; 1 Thess. 2:6-12)
- Love means being patient and gentle with one another, forgiving one another’s sins (Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12-14)
- Love means serving one another (Gal. 5:13, 4:15-16)
- Love means putting others’ interests before your own, to the point of giving up your rights and sacrificing yourself for the benefit of others – just as Christ did for us (Phil. 2:1-4; Eph. 5:25-30; Rom. 14:13-15,21; 1 Cor. 8:13; 1 Thess. 2:6-12)
- We should always be growing in love (Rom. 13:8; 1 Thess. 3:12; 1 Thess. 4:9-10)

#### Summary

- Jesus commands us to love one another as He loved us
- Love comes from God and is an important evidence that God lives in us
  - love is also our primary witness to the watching world that we are Christ’s disciples
  - absence of love calls into question the reality of our confession
- Love is rooted in truth
  - Right doctrine promotes love; false doctrine destroys it
  - we need to speak the truth in love in order to build one another up
- Love involves both attitudes and actions
  - getting rid of negative attitudes and actions

- malice, hatred, envy, slander, hypocrisy, deceit, pride, rudeness, vengeance, anger, etc.
- developing loving attitudes and actions
  - humility, compassion, self-sacrifice, forgiveness
- providing for one another's needs
- serving one another
- We should always be growing in love

#### Application

9 ways to grow together in love in 2009

1. Grow in love for God
2. Deeper understanding and experience of the love of Christ
3. Greater appreciation of the reality that we are brothers and sisters in Christ
4. "Enough about me, what about you?"
5. More willingness to cover over sins others may have committed against you
6. Ridding ourselves of ....
7. Greater passion to see one another growing in Christ, resulting in ....
8. Greater willingness to make personal sacrifices and give up our rights for the benefit of others
9. Perseverance in love
  - Continuing growth in the depth of our love
  - Continuing growth in the breadth of our love