

So Loved Part 6

Without Nothing, With Everything

Steve Berger February 28, 2016

So Loved — Review

- God Is Love — 1 John 4:8
- Eternally — Jeremiah 31:3
- Sovereignly — Romans 5:8
- Sacrificially — John 3:16
- Practically — 1 Corinthians 13
- Lavishly — Ephesians 1
- Transferable — John 15:9,12
- Marriage — Ephesians 5
- Parenting — Hebrews 12

Without love we have nothing

- **1 Corinthians 13:1-3**

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

- no love= clanging cymbal; no love=nothing; no love=no profit — very clear!

Interesting that Paul is speaking to the church. “He shouldn’t have to say that, surely God’s people always get the main thing of love right — right?”

***Paul was a Pharisee** — the strictest religious Jewish sect of the day; they memorized the Torah; followed every jot and tittle of law — but, they were mean-spirited and self-righteous — they were missing love!*

- **Luke 11:42**

But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

- **John 5:42**

But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you.

If we merely come near to the love of God** by certain spiritual disciplines but neglect loving God and loving people... we’ve missed the whole point of knowing God! **Consider** the things we do or don’t do to try to ease our conscious or replace our responsibility of simply loving God and people. **THERE’S NO PASS ON LOVING!

With love we have everything!

Fulfillment of the Law

- **Matthew 22:34-40**

But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, **‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’** This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: **‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’** On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Everything the law and the prophets are — hangs on “love God,” “love people”!

- **Romans 13:8-10**

Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, “YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY,” “YOU SHALL NOT MURDER,” “YOU SHALL NOT STEAL,” “YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS,” “YOU SHALL NOT COVET,” and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

All commandments are summed up and fulfilled in LOVE!
Loving God and loving people is everything!

How? By giving the love God gave to you, back to Him, and to others. Freely received, freely given, Matthew 10:8.

***Our lives and the lives of those around us** would have a serious God encounter if we made it our **primary focus** to **love God** and **love people**. Let’s not neglect love by substituting other spiritual things in its place!*

***Question:** Who, When, Where and How can you start loving bigger and better? Start there!*

Love fills us with the fullness of God

- **Ephesians 3:17-19**

...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

- **rooted in love**- agricultural analogy, like a tree deeply rooted in healthy soil, have your life deeply rooted in the eternal, sovereign, sacrificial, practical, lavish, love of God!
- **grounded in love**- architectural analogy, like a building established on a sure foundation, have your life anchored in the eternal, sovereign, sacrificial, practical, lavish, love of God! **THEN...**
- **you’ll know by experience** — the unknowable (inexhaustible) love of Christ
- **you’ll be filled with the fullness of God** — of course because God is love!

Love secures us for eternity

- **Romans 8:33-39**

Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE KILLED ALL DAY LONG; WE ARE ACCOUNTED AS SHEEP FOR THE SLAUGHTER." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**No one or nothing can separate the CHILD of GOD
from the LOVE of GOD, ever!**

- **21 things listed-** charge/justified, condemns/Christ died, rose, right hand, intercedes, separation/create space, drive a wedge, tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword, martyrdom, death, life, angels, principalities, powers, things present, things to come, height, depth, anything else!

IMPORTANT

1. **Fact...** no one or nothing can separate the child of God from the love of God, ever!
2. **However...** the love of God doesn't always separate the child of God from these difficult things!
3. **Goal...** to be so settled and sure in the love of God for us, that these difficult things don't convince us that God doesn't love us or His love isn't present in the very midst of our trials.

LISTEN TO THE PODCAST TO HEAR PASTOR STEVE TELL THE STORY OF ONE OF THE FIRST MARTYRS — POLYCARP. This is a man who **knew** and was **filled with the fullness** of the love of God, who understood that even the hardest of situations didn't separate him from the eternal, sovereign, sacrificial, practical, lavish, and secure love of God. *May we know the love of God that deeply as we **root and ground ourselves** in it.*

**Without love we have nothing,
with love, we have everything,
love never fails!**

Discussion Questions

1. How are some ways that we as Christians do NOT show love for others?
2. Why does “loving God” and “loving others” feel too simple to be “good enough”?
3. Who, When, Where and How can YOU start loving bigger and better? Concrete example(s).
4. Ephesians 3:17-19 says that we can be filled with all the fullness of God. How?
5. Have you had any personal experience(s) that have tempted you to believe that God doesn't love you?
6. How can we become so settled and sure in the love of God for us, that we do not falter in the middle of our trials?

March House of Prayer

Join us for the next House of Prayer

Grace Chapel

Sanctuary

Tuesday, March 8th

6:30 p.m.

To submit a prayer request, visit

www.gracechapel.net/prayer