

John 15:9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. 17 These things I command you, that you love one another.

First and Second Advent - first and second coming - first and second arrival - fix our eyes and feet on both during the advent season - Faithfulness of God - Hope - Joy - today focusing on the advent of Love - looking back to love - looking forward to love - living in love @ being loving - pain pleasure suffering songs burst heart - heart bursting

Last week I focused on the Joy experienced - already - not yet - start your engines - hit the gas. Equated Joy - the coming home - coming to the place where everything is right -the way it should be - what you were made for, Jesus experienced exile - rejection so we could come home and be embraced.

There is a saying - home is where the heart is - since we are made in the image of God - one of the things that makes us radically different from all the animals is the beauty, complexity, and capacity of a human heart. At the core of every human heart, what it was made for - what it is by design to be filled with, and express is love.

Matt 22: 36 "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" 37 Jesus replied, "'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

The primary difference, defining characteristic, differentiating experience between people who are born again and not - is not morality - is not political position - is not prosperity - is not vocabulary - or cultural preferences - it is the fullness of our experience of being loved and loving others.

1 John 4:16 We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

Our love (received and given) is to be so radically distinguishable from anything found in the world apart from Christ - that self-lovers (received and given) - will humbly embrace or in pride reject.

John 15:18 "If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. 19 The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning James 1:17 NKJV

Mat 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Heb 1:3 (Jesus) who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person (God),

Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

John 14:9 He who has seen Me has seen the Father

One of the great blessing, benefits - in life of Christ we have seen - have modeled for us - declared to us - displayed and given to us is LOVE - love incarnate - materialized

Lets talk about Love for a bit. The new testament was written in koine greek for the most part. In the greek language there are four words for love - they are eros, philos, storge, and agape.

Eros - Romantic love - not in the bible - but seen in the bible - it is where we get the word erotic from - but that is the extreme - that has taken on a negative vibe - doesn't have to be sex or even physical - though it can be - in one of its simplest forms - greeting by my puppy - being around you - your presence - your touch make me feel pleasure -

Zacchaeus in the tree looking for Jesus and Jesus calling him down and inviting himself over for dinner. Mary and Martha and Lazarus - Jesus washing the disciples feet. Jhn 13:23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. - Pleasure in His presence - worship - prayer - word - walking through life together - I will never leave you nor forsake you - I will send the helper - comforter - Holy Spirit

Storge -Be devoted translated bondedness or affection - which is this word for family or familial affection - family relationship - the love of a mother for her infant and a love of the infant for its mother, a kind of automatic, natural, deep bond, or of children for their grandparents or uncles and aunts, or even for your neighbors, for the places you grew up. You see. Loyalty. The sense of going way, way back together. Church -one place for a long time

Mark 3:33 But He answered them, saying, "Who is My mother, or My brothers?" 34 And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! 35 For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother."

Apostles & Disciples - in Christ - *Storge* exists between people who, if they had not found themselves in the same household or community, would have had nothing to do with each other."

John 10 - Psalm 23 - Jesus the Good Shepherd - knows His sheep by name - bond

Philos - Romans 12:10 - *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love* - common interest - goal - vision - desire - camaraderie - deep friendship love

Friendship love - I no longer call you servants I call you friends - friendship doesn't happen unless you work at it. Friendship only happens to the degree you work at it. - Know each other - Know each other better with more friends - A friend is someone who they let you in (*Vulnerable.*) and always is there for you (*Constancy.*)

Galatians 6:2 - carry each others burdens - emotional - financial - physical - You're getting drained, and they're being built up.

Proverbs 18:24 says, "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

Stay close - so that whatever weight of burden lands on them close enough you feel the weight of it to and you stay to bear it - A friend never lets you down.

12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Life without relationships is meaningless. All these loves can fail tragically if at their foundation is not a special kind of love - the most important love - it sustains and makes all the other loves flourish.

Agape - sacrificial, serving love.

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 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. 3 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.

4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Now - already -

1 Cor 13: 8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Perfect = The Greek word Paul uses is “when that which is **teleion** comes.” The telos is the word that means design, the aim. When we get to that which we’re all aiming for. The ultimate fulfillment of design. There’s a place where we become all we should be, all we were meant to be, all we were made to be, and all we want to be. There’s a place we’re all headed for. There’s a place we’re all yearning for. There’s a place where we would be all we were built for, designed for. BLUE PLANET

then we shall see face to face - look at the last part of verse 12. I doesn’t say, “When I get to eternity, when I get to heaven, I shall know, and I shall be fully known.” He doesn’t say that. He doesn’t say, “I shall know, and I shall be fully known.” He says, “... I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.” The am is present tense.

There’s only one person who knows you fully. This is the face of God. Paul says that’s what’s waiting for us. That’s what you have to have to live.

In Psalm 16 the psalmist says, “... in thy [face] is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”

13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

a chaplain in the hospital talking with people who knew they were dying, they would say to him, "I have trouble getting around this idea of heaven. It sounds boring," because when they thought of heaven, peace, serenity, gold streets, harps, good people

When was the happiest time in your life - when you felt the loved - or felt the most loving - there is no such thing as boredom in love

Pick up a child and tell them, "You're beautiful. You're wonderful." The child wants love the way you want air. Do you think you've really changed when you're older?

To be in heaven, is to be fully known but absolutely loved. The greatest love you've ever had on earth, compared to the love you will have there is sort of like comparing an oil rag to a wedding dress.

We will be loved. We will find ourselves as we find him. We will be embraced. This is not going off into some all soul energy experience.

We will have faces (you will be you) We will dance with him. He will sweep us off our feet, and we will say, "You look beautiful today." He will say, "So do you." Heaven is a world of Love - Eros, Storge, Phileo, Agape

In John 17, Jesus says, "Father, I will that they may be with me where I am, and that they may behold my glory that you gave me, for you loved me before the world began."

What is the glory of God? "I want them in the love with us. I want them to be included in the circle. I want them to have the same love with us that we have with each other. I want them with us." Therefore, when Jesus says the ultimate glory of God is this incredible love between the Father and the Son, and he wants us in, finally we will get "into the heart of things."

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16