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# Love That Is Genuine

Radio Message by Dwight Porter, D.D.

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**LOVE** is one of the most twisted and distorted words in any language, to some, making love means sex. To others, a tolerance toward wrong doing indicates our love and understanding. Some advocate the premise that if we really love one another, we should gather for dialogue and try to understand each other by confessing our inner hostilities. People living together in immorality call it love. The young man says to his girlfriend, you will if you love me. Is that love? Does its exercise contaminate and motivate disobedience to God's plain plan for marriage? Since when does love fill us with deep frustrations and a sensual guilt? Never does love take that which is pure and condone that which is morally wrong, according to God's standards.

Let us hear from God on this subject. Our ideas amount to absolutely nothing! Never forget that love and truth are inseparable. ". . . Whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth" (II John 1). "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ" (Ephesians 4:15). "(Love) Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth" (I Corinthians 13:6).

## Source of Love

"Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God, he that loveth not knoweth not God, for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (I John 4:7-10). We cannot make love nor share what we produce. God places it within our heart and life.

## Location of Love

All of the eternal benefits of God's love and grace are located in His Son, Jesus Christ. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places **IN CHRIST**" (Ephesians 1:3).

All of God's love made available to sinners is in Christ and communicated only through Him. God knows the tragic consequence of so many people declaring that God loves everybody despite their sinful condition. Sinners have no benefits of God's love until they come to the Savior. God loves them through His Son. This is the reason for such little emphasis upon the wrath and judgment of God. We seldom speak of the damnation of hell, for; after all, God loves everybody, so we must not be too far away from Him. God has already announced His wrath now abiding upon all

unbelievers. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth (present tense) on him" (John 3:36).

A careful study of the Bible will reveal in the New Testament that when God's love is declared, Christ is recognized as the mediator of that love. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16). (Look up Romans 5:8.)

## Communication of Love

It is God who places His love within us. In no way do we possess it on the basis of an emotional involvement with Him. "And hope maketh not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Romans 5:5).

## Consequence of Love

Love for one another is automatic when we possess a love for God and His Son. "Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints" (Philemon 5). "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us" (I John 4:11, 12).

Christ challenged and commanded us to take the gospel around the world. "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Love motivates our joyful obedience.

Love demands action! God so loved that He gave. Christ loved and died for us on the cruel cross. God's love is demonstrated in His chastening and correction. "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth" (Hebrews 12:6). "But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we would not be condemned with the world" (I Corinthians 11:32).

It is interesting to note the attitude of some misguided people. In no way does love tolerate any conduct that is contrary to the plain direction of the Bible. We hear the popular tune, "All the world needs is love." This is an absolute compromise with unregenerate reasoning. It is TRUTH that sets men free. Truth reveals God's declared judgment upon all unrighteousness and that His love and grace are available only through personal relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ.

How can an unsaved person comprehend the love of God? Their presumed love is in no way identified with a holy God. How easily detected are the people who are offended with Truth. They endeavor to discredit the offending person and accuse them of lacking love. Today we have pulpits that will not offend anybody, so they preach love and totally neglect the scriptures that reprove, correct and instruct (II Timothy 3:16). Poor Jeremiah would not pastor a very large church today, for his message was repentance. I wonder how many people would tolerate the Apostle Paul in their pulpit? He certainly used harsh words, created riots, and was hated by many. He would probably be too controversial for most of today's pulpits.

How dare we claim to have more love than the prophets who denounced the rulers of their day? How dare we insult the Lord Jesus, Who was the greatest hell-fire preacher in the Bible, by not preaching in the same manner? Away with a watered-down, broad-minded message that offends no one. If Peter operated on that basis, the result of Pentecost would have been totally different. (The great happening at Pentecost was about 3,000 souls saved, baptized, and continually steadfast.)

Love motivates our labors for the glory of God and to the benefit of those for whom He holds us responsible. Let us allow God's love to so permeate our being that others see the demonstration of God's love within our lives. We are to proclaim not only by Word, but also by our lives the glorious transforming power of Christ, wrought by the Holy Spirit and provided for us by God.

It is time to get back to the inseparable link between love and truth. The only answer to man's need is not found in dialogue or a watered-down message of sentimental encouragement. We have been instructed to "preach the Word" (all of it!) and submit to "THUS SAITH THE LORD." We dare not allow religious trends of our day to slow us down in declaring the whole counsel of God.

Love is in the Person of God, Christ and the Holy Spirit. Let us allow them to so fully possess us that their love will be evident in and through all we say and do. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; but made himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became OBEДИENT to death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:5-8).

#### **Evidence of Love**

Christ plainly declared it: "If you love Me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). (Try to fit into this verse that term "UNCONDITIONAL LOVE" which was introduced by a heathen psychologist.) "Jesus answered and said to him, If a man love Me, he will keep my words and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make our abode with Him" (John 14:23). This truth is repeated in the twenty-first verse of this same chapter.

The greatest demonstration of our love to God is obedience, a word we hear little of today, yet it is a very prominent part of the Scriptures (Matthew 28:20). The Bible is filled with the consequences of disobedience, that started in a beautiful, perfect garden. Can a disobedient person sing of his or her love to God? Sure, but it means nothing if not backed by their obedience to all of the commands of God and His Son, Jesus Christ. We have already read that disobedience makes a tremendous change in God's relationship with us. Any question about that? Talk to Adam and Eve. What about David's relationship after his sin? What a price Moses paid for his failure at the rock in the wilderness. How many children of Israel died after the refusal to obey God at Kadesh Barnea?

Some conclude that it is all right to disobey, for, after all, God loves us anyway; and it will turn out all right in the end. Not so according to the Bible. If God has no penalty we suffer for disobedience, what happens to His justice? The intoxication of the flesh generates the conclusion that we are somebody special and an exception. No such person exists, for God is no respecter of persons.

God's love is genuine! Don't play around with it! If you possess His love, joyful obedience will be the result. You have no love of your own! Read about God's love for you in the third and fourth chapters of John. Read both chapters at least ten times.

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