

Heritage of Love and Faith

Evening Service – February 14, 2010

- **Love For God: Not An _____ But a _____**
Deuteronomy 6:4-5

I Peter 1:18-19

I John 4:10

God loved us because _____
_____! Eph. 1:5 Romans 5:8

I John 3:1

Matthew 6:33 6:21

- **Love For God: That Which Is To Be _____ at _____**
Deuteronomy 6:6-7

III John 1:4

II Timothy 1:5

Psalms 103:17-18

Exodus 34:7

- **Love For God: To Be Followed By Love _____**

Matthew 22:36, 40

I Peter 4:8

Proverbs 10:12

Proverbs 17:9

This pastor's perspective

The easiest and simplest form of love at Riverpark Bible Church is _____ toward everyone!

I Thessalonians 3:12

I Thessalonians 4:9-10

II Thessalonians 1:3

James 5:20

I Peter 1:22

III John 1:2

- **Love For God: That Which Results In _____**

Wrap Up

*“God does not love us because we are _____,
but we are valuable because God loves us” (ML)*

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Intro: READ HUMOROUS SHEET ON “HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHOM TO MARRY”

Holidays were designed to be positive events. But the reality is – holidays in general and Valentines in particular have the ability to cause as much pain as joy. One writer said, “*the love celebrated by some is love-lost or longed for by others.*” Many of us are prone to be clueless about this. Those who have lost loved ones in the Christmas season often dread the Christmas season and experience depression during these holidays.

Rather than talk about *how to have a good marriage ... or how to be a loving Valentine ... I'd like to talk about the love of God that displays itself in numerous ways.*

Transition: When we talk about love ... the best place to start is to consider the love of God and how that love causes us to love Him ... and then others.

Testimony: When I was in High School I remember realizing that I did not love God as I knew the Bible said I should. I remember asking the associate pastor, *how can I love God more?* I don't remember the answer but I believe God put the question in my heart. For the question remained for quite some time.

➤ Love For God: Not An OPTION But a COMMAND

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

"Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!

6:5 "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

A command to love without having an object worthy of love would be a strange thing. To love in a vacuum ... to love without a reason ... would be equally absurd. But to love One who exemplifies love to the *nth* degree ... and is love personified is a most reasonable command.

Why love God?

A well known story ...

Boy who built a toy sailboat with his own hands. Took it to a large lake and it sailed marvelously. But large wind came and sailed the boat off into the distance. To the boy it was lost forever. But weeks later the boy passed a pawn shop and in the window of the shop was his toy sailboat. He told the owner his story but the owner would only accept payment for the little boat. So the boy went home and did what he could to gather the money. Finally, with money, he went back to the store and bought the little boat. As he walked away with the boat in his hands he said – *I MADE YOU AND I BOUGHT YOU!*

Why do we love God? We love Him because He made us and He bought us!

What God wants us to know about His love involves His grace!

I Peter 1:18-19

knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,

1:19 but with **precious blood**, as of **a lamb unblemished** and **spotless**, the **blood of Christ**.

The wonderful truth ... the whole truth ... and nothing but the truth

- Our free gift of salvation required a huge payment!
- It was a payment that exceeded anything silver or gold could provide
- The only payment that could provide us with a free gift was the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ!

I Peter 1:19

“... precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

- It was the blood of someone precious
- The blood of someone completely perfect ...
- Someone completely blameless ...
- Someone spotless ...
- Only Jesus could be this person ... and provide this sacrifice!

I John 4:10

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Donald S. Whitney

“He has never done anything greater for anyone, nor could He do anything greater for you, than bring you to Himself.

- ✓ *Suppose He put ten million dollars into your bank account every morning for the rest of your life, but He didn’t save you?*
- ✓ *Suppose He gave you the most beautiful body and face of anyone who ever lived, a body that never aged for a thousand years, but then at death He shut you out of Heaven and into hell for eternity?*
- ✓ *What has God ever given anyone that could compare with the salvation He has given to you as a believer?*
- ✓ *Do you see that there is nothing God could ever do for you or give to you greater than the gift of Himself?*
- ✓ *If we cannot be thankful to Him who is everything and in whom we have everything, what will make us grateful?”*

God loved us because **HE WANTED TO!**

Eph. 1:5

“... according to the kind intention of His will!

Don't miss this

There is absolutely nothing whatsoever in us that made us attractive to God
 There was nothing in us that prompted God to love us
 THE LOVE OF GOD IS SPONTANEOUS ...

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Andre Crouch

*I don't know why Jesus loved me ... I don't know why he cares
 I don't know why He sacrificed His life ... oh but I'm glad ... I'm glad He did*

God's love for us results in a **COVENANT** relationship

I John 3:1

See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

J. I. Packer

"God's love is an exercise of His goodness toward individual sinners whereby, having identified Himself with their welfare, He has given His Son to be their Savior, and now brings them to know and enjoy Him in a covenant relation."

God's love:

- ✓ Brought us into His family
- ✓ We are "children of God"

Application

- We demonstrate where our love is by our **priorities!**

Matthew 6:33

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

- We demonstrate where our love is in our **POCKET-BOOK**

Matthew 6:21

"... where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Transition: Love for God is something that can be displayed ... and it IS to be displayed constantly in a particular setting.

➤ **Love For God: That Which Is To Be MODELED at HOME**

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

"And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart;

6:7 and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

It is this pastor's perspective ...

That there is not enough talk about Jesus in family times. There is not enough talk about God's grace in family times. There is not enough honesty about our shortcomings in family times.

Key phrases in Deuteronomy 6:6-7

First – "*shall be on your heart*"

Second – "*teach them diligently*"

TOO MANY PARENTS EMPHASIZE GOOD THINGS BUT NOT THE TOP PRIORITIES FOR THEIR CHILDREN:

- Many parents emphasize being good students – get good grades ... which will make them happy
- Many parents emphasize sports – being a part of a team – which will make them happy

What should a parent emphasize as their greatest joy in their children?

III John 1:4

I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.

Illustration of parental influence in the New Testament

II Timothy 1:5

For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.

Timothy's spiritual pilgrimage

Was the direct result of the salvation of his grandmother and mother.

His faith descended by his mother's side

Acts 16:1

Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but **his father was a Greek,**

Timothy had a heritage of faith.

- ✓ His grandmother Lois
- ✓ His mother, Eunice

It seems evident

Though some great leaders had ungodly parents ... a high percentage of great men throughout church history have come from godly homes!

My spiritual pilgrimage

My Grandfather's salvation on my mother's side ... has had a huge impact on my mother and me. (Tell Grampa's salvation story)

- ✓ Impact 8 children have trusted in Christ

- ✓ The vast majority of them were spiritually passionate for the things of the Lord. 5 of the 8 are home with the Lord

Something I haven't figured out yet ...

Psalm 103:17-18

But the lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children,
103:18 To those who keep His covenant, And who remember His precepts to do them.

In contrast ... look at Exodus 34:7

Exodus 34:7

who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, **visiting the iniquity** of fathers on the **children** and on the **grandchildren** to the **third** and **fourth generations.** "

Interesting Observation

"It is sin, and not grace, that is easily transmitted by blood."

Testimonies of 3 ...

I have first hand knowledge of two sets of parents at this church ... and plenty of second hand knowledge of a third set of parents ... parents who have loved the Lord Jesus Christ and modeled that before their children.

The question I asked ...

What things do you look back on in your parent's lives that impressed you with God's love? How did they display their love for God?

And why might it be said of you, of course such and such a person loves the Lord and is a person of faith – the example of their parents is written all over them.

Pastor Kevin

Pastor Dave

Eunie McEntee

Transition: Love for God and having that loved modeled by parents is tops. But there are a whole lot of people who do not have good examples

➤ **Love For God: To Be Followed By Love FOR OTHERS**

Matthew 22:36, 40

Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"

22:39 The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

22:40 "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

A love for the lost ... and a desire to see them saved

A love for fellow believers

I Peter 4:8

Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

Observe the same concept in the Old Testament ...

Proverbs 10:12

Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all transgressions.

Proverbs 17:9

He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.

Principle I share in each Inquirer's Class

It is Christ-like to over-look **MINOR** offenses

Interesting thought:

Some at our church might say, *Riverpark is the church where I serve*. But wouldn't it be better for people to say ... *this is where I serve – but more than that – this is where I am loved*.

This pastor's perspective

The easiest and simplest form of love at Riverpark Bible Church is **FRIENDLINESS** toward everyone!

And the vast majority of the offenses we have against each other are minor in nature

Watch this

If you love the Lord it is because you know of His grace in Christ Jesus specifically directed to you. And when you have experienced that love it will have a life-long affect on how you treat others!

Ephesians 4:32

And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

The kind of love God has in mind for the church

IS A LOVE THAT IS ALWAYS GROWING AND INCREASING!

I Thessalonians 3:12

and may the Lord **cause you to increase and abound in love for one another**, and for all men, just as we also do for you;

I Thessalonians 4:9-10

Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;
4:10 for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to **excel still more**,

II Thessalonians 1:3

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another **grows ever greater;**

Notice how love displays itself at times ... (James 5)

James 5:20

... he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.

I Peter 1:22

Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, *fervently love one* another from the heart,

If we love others ... our desire for them is expressed well in III John 1:2

III John 1:2

Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.

➤ **Love For God: That Which Results In WORSHIP**

- Worship is **MY RESPONSE** to God's love

In other words ...

Worship is the way I **REACT** when God loves me.

It is because God loved first!

- God took the initiative
- God made the first move
- He never asks us to make the first move
- He created us ...
- Provides salvation

And in response to His love ... God says ... love Me back!

- Respond!
- Express appreciation!
- Do something in response!

- Worship is giving **BACK LOVE** to God who first loved us

Wrap Up

*“God does not love us because we are **VALUABLE**, but we are valuable because God loves us” (ML)*