

Love III
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
May 19, 2007

Two weeks ago, we started looking into the use of the word “love” in the Bible. We talked a bit about the plethora of songs that deal with love and I read a sermon dated May 14, 2006 given by a United Methodist Church pastor named Dennis Kuder from Kansas. It served as a perfect lead-in to our study.

Last week, we reviewed the Biblical words that are translated into today’s English word “love”.

Old Testament – 139 times

157 ahab (aw-hab) – like, friend

158 ahab (ah-hab) – affection

159 ohab (o-hab) – same as 158

160 ahabah (a-hab-aw) – feminine of 158

1730 dowd (dode) – beloved, father’s brother, love, uncle

2836 chashaq (khaw-shak) – to cling, to love, to delight in – to desire

5690-1 egeb (eh-gheb) – to dote on, amorousness

7355-6 racham (raw-kham) – to be compassionate

New Testament – 184 times

25-6 Agape – love in a social or moral sense

2309 thelo – to desire, to choose, to prefer

5360-1-8 – Philadelphia – brotherly love

Philia - friendship

Eros

Storge – affection

Our study led us to the revelation that agape type love is a love that says “I want to be with you” instead of “I need you”.

Most of the songs we have heard that sing about love, equate love with “need”. That isn’t necessarily so. The overriding part of true love is wanting to be with the other person.

Love means:

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- I want to be with you versus I need you
- I want to be with you – sometimes
- I want to be with you – often
- I want to be with you – all the time

We are born with a desire for eternity. We are told that God is love and that He loves us. We are told to love our neighbor as ourselves. We want to live forever – with God, and Revelation 21 portrays a beautiful existence.

But, we are also taught that God created us.

Genesis 1

- **26 ¶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."**
 - **27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**
- **28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."**
 - He not only created Adam and Eve, but each one of us through them
 - He wanted a multitude of human beings
 - He wanted us to learn responsibility by having dominion over every living thing
- **29 And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.**
- **30 "Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so.**
 - He gave us what we “need”
- **31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.**

Why would God create something He did not want? He had created the Earth and filled it with animals. The earth became chaotic, so He destroyed much of it and recreated it. This time, He included the creation of beings in His own image.

Another question – why would He create us with the ability to procreate? Why didn't He simply make a few billion of us and be done with it?

- His intent was to teach us how to love unconditionally?

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- He wanted us to know how to love our children and to watch them grow and to learn.
- He watches us, as adults, grow and learn His ways.

He also tells us to love our enemies.

Matthew 5

- 44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,
- 45 "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Luke 6

- 27 "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,
- 28 "bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.
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- 35 "But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

Why does He want us to love our enemies?

- Our enemies are His creation, too.
- They are His children.
- He wants all His children to play well together.
- He loves us when we do wrong, just as we love our children when they don't live up to our expectations.

He knew us before we were born. He had (has) a plan for us.

- **Jeremiah 1:5** "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."
- **Romans 8:**
 - 26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
 - 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.
 - 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.
 - 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

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- 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.
- **Ephesians 1**
 - 1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:
 - 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,
 - 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,
 - 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
 - 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.
 - 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace
 - 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,
 - 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,
 - 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him.
 - 11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
 - He created us for a long time, eternal purpose
 - 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.
 - 13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,
 - 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

He knows our every movement and every thought.

- **Psalms 139**
 - 1 O LORD, You have searched me and known me.
 - 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.
 - 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.

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- 4 For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.
- 5 You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.

Why would He create man? Why would He make us so that He knows us so very well?

God doesn't **need** us! He doesn't **need** you! He doesn't **need** me!

God got along quite nicely, thank you, for eons before He created man!

Think about that deeply! God wants to be with you – forever! What a wonderful thought!

John 21:

- 15 ¶ So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you **love** (25 agape) Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I **love** (5368 phileo – Philadelphia – brotherly love) You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."
 - “more than these”
 - Do you love me more than these other men do?
 - Do you love me more than you love these men?
 - Do you love me more than you love these things – boats, fish etal?
 - Most likely one of the first two
 - Third alternative is the least likely
- 16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you **love** (25 agape) Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I **love** (5368 phileo – Philadelphia – brotherly love) You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep."
- 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you **love** (5368 phileo – Philadelphia – brotherly love) Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you **love** (5368 phileo – Philadelphia – brotherly love) Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I **love** (5368 phileo – Philadelphia – brotherly love) You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."
 - “you know” changes
 - first two times, word is oida – intellectual knowledge
 - third reply, word is ginosko – knowledge gained through experience
 - “feed my sheep” changes
 - v.15 = pasture my lambs
 - taking them out to feed
 - v.16 = take care of my sheep
 - total guardianship

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- v.17 = pasture my sheep
- Jesus was testing Peter
 - This relates to Peter's 3 denials
 - It also relates to the type of love
 - And the responsibility of the church leaders

Deuteronomy 8:19 "Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.

Genesis 3:

- **1** Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"
- **2** And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;
- **3** "but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"
- **4** Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.
- **5** "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
- **6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

God set the rules and human beings broke them.

2 Peter 3

- **1** Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),
- **2** that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,
- **3** knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,
- **4** and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."
- **5** For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,
- **6** by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.
- **7** But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

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- **8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**
- **9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**

God never decides He does not want to be with us!

It's not what you "need" to do to be a Christian; it's what you "want" to do if you are a Christian.

We are the ones who decide not to be with Him!

God wants to live with you for eternity! Do you want to live with Him for eternity?

It's your choice!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!