

Introduction:

- Since it is Valentine's Day, it only makes sense that I preach on Love. And I will even call this the conclusion of the Dismantling Anger Series.
- Let's go to 1 Cor 13:1-ff.
- Look at three statements Paul makes:
 1. Have Not Love
 2. Love Never Fails/stops/quits
 3. Faith Hope Love - The Greatest of these is Love
- Agape Love: gives and expects nothing in return to stay motivated by love in order to love.

I. To Have Not Love, Not Good

- A. Three times Paul uses the phrase, "Have not love." He is talking about doing great things for God, but if it is not done in love it is useless.
 1. Tongues of men and angels - without love it sounds like a clanging gong or noisy symbols.
 2. Prophecy, mysteries, knowledge and faith - without love I am nothing.
 3. Give all I have and who I am - without love I gain nothing.
 4. If doing great things for God is useless without love, how does a life filled with anger pan out???
- B. Love never fails.
 1. The gifts will cease operating as we know them.
 2. But not love! Love will never stop, never fail, never stop loving.
 3. To not have love is not good!
- C. Faith, Hope, Love: Of these three love is the greatest!
- D. Love is the greatest counter/alternative to anger!

II. To Have Ungodly Anger, Not Good

- A. When we are no longer listening to God's voice, word or ways we have a godship issue.
 1. Anger as we have seen is a godship issue because it is dealing with sinful anger. Sinful anger is selfishly motivated.
 2. We are trying to be God by following out own ways, word, voice.
- B. *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him."* (John 12:24-26, ESV)
 1. To be fruitful (produce kingdom fruit) you have to die.
 2. To keep your life for eternity you must hate your life in this world.
 3. To be with Jesus you have to follow Jesus

4. To be honored by God you have serve Jesus.
- C. If you don't die you will remain alone!
 1. Angry people are some of the loneliest people on earth. No one wants to be around you. Remember they are angry because of selfishness motives.
 2. People who are self focused, make life all about them. They will always be alone.
 3. To die requires humility (*falls to the earth*) dies (crucified with Christ)

III. Love Trumps Anger Every time!

- A. Love trumps anger every time. We are talking about selfish anger not righteous anger.
- B. Paul says, here is what love is. He lists 15 things.
 1. Love is patient
 2. Love is kind
 3. Love does not envy
 4. Love does not boast
 5. Love is not arrogant
 6. Love is not rude
 7. It does not insist on its own way
 8. It is not irritable
 9. It is not resentful
 10. It does not rejoice in wrong doing
 11. Love rejoice in the truth
 12. Love bears all things
 13. Love believes all things
 14. Love hope all things
 15. Love endures all things.
- C. Here is what must happen to impatience, rudeness, envy, arrogance, easily angered. This fleshly side of us must die!
 1. We cant love like Paul loved until we die!
 2. Put off the old self Eph. 4:22
 3. *"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."* (Galatians 2:20, ESV)

Conclusion:

- If you want reviving start dying! Die to self/anger; walk in love and watch revival explode
- "When Jesus calls a man," Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "he bids him come and die" Come. Reckon yourself dead to sin and alive to love.
- Put off your old self and put on love! Love is....