

I. Introduction

- A. Last week in honor of Valentine's Day and in conclusion to the Dismantling Anger series, Pastor Tim encouraged us to 'put on love and put off anger' served out of 1 Corinthians 13, highlighting the need for dying to self. Check it out if you missed it.
- B. While asking the Lord what to share, the topic that came was Living in the Love.
- C. There is so much about love in the Bible. It's like a multifaceted diamond. We'll just look at small nugget tonight... He is Love, Loving on Him, and Loving Others.

II. He is Love

- A. What is said about God and love?
 - 1. God is love.
 - 2. 1 John 4:8 NLT *"But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love."*
- B. God showed us love
 - 1. Gave us Holy Spirit. Romans 5:5 NLT *"And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love"*
 - 2. Romans 5:8 NLT *"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."*
 - 3. 1 John 3:1 NLT *"See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!"*
 - 4. 1 John 4:16 NLT *"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."*

III. Loving on Him

- A. Gary Chapman coined the phrase 'love language' in his book by the same name, where he discusses the idea of how humans show and want to be shown love.
- B. Jesus expressed how he wants to be shown love, way before Gary thought about "love language." So what says, "I love you" to Him?
 - 1. Obedience...obey my commands
 - a. John 14:15 NLT *"If you love me, obey my commandments."*
 - b. John 14:21 NLT *"Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them."*
 - 2. John 14:23-24 NLT *"Jesus replied, "All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them and we will come and make our home with each of them. . Anyone who doesn't love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me."*

3. He models it, too. Jesus obeys because he loves the Father: John 14:30-31 NLT
*"I don't have much more time to talk to you, because the ruler of this world approaches. He has no power over me,. But **I will do what the Father requires of me, so that the world will know that I love the Father. Come, let's be going.**"*
 4. 1 John 5:2-3 NLT "We know we love God's children if we love God and obey his commandments. Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome".
- C. What does He command?
1. Love God, love others. When answering the Pharisees question (Matthew 22:36)
"Jesus replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your should, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matthew 22:37-39 NLT
 2. Believe in Him and obey. 1John 3:23-24 NLT "And this is his commandment: We must believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us. Those who obey God's commandments remain in fellowship with him, and he with them. And we know he lives in us because the Spirit he gave us lives in us."
 3. Love each other. John 13:34-35 NLT "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

IV. Loving Others

- A. Do love. 1 John 3:18 NLT "Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions."
1. "Sometimes it means giving our lives by spending time in prayer for someone. Other times it means giving of ourselves with love and understanding. Many times it means laying down our own selfish desires in order to meet the needs of another...When you lay down your life, you live to please God instead of yourself. You let your life be guided by His love..." G. Copeland, Faith to Faith devotional
- B. Even the difficult. Luke 6:32-33 NLT "If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them? And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much!"
1. Joyce Meyers: mistreated by her father, mother knew...yet obedient to God she forgave, house, car, money, care until death. Brought father to repentance, salvation, and baptism. (Video Clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqw7x5Twj64>)
 2. Loving when we don't want to. Choosing to love when we don't feel like it. Choosing forgiveness when the offender is not sorry or when it doesn't feel like

- they deserve it. God did it for us.
- C. Enemies. Luke 6:35 NLT *"Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked."*
1. MLK Jr. :
 - a. *"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."* (A gift of Love: Sermons from Strength to Love and other Preachings", p.67, Beacon Press)
 - b. *"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."* (Spoken during an address in Atlanta for the 1967 Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The title of the address was, "Where Do We Go From Here?")
 - c. *"He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love."* (A gift of Love: Sermons from Strength to Love and other Preachings", p.64, Beacon Press)
 - D. God's family. 1 John 3:14 NLT *"If we love our brothers and sisters who are believers, it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead."*
 - E. Meet needs/compassion. 1 John 3:16-17 NLT *"We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person?"*
 - F. Don't quit. 1 John 4:7 NLT *"Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God."*
 - G. God's love expressed in us. 1 John 4:10-12 NLT *"This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loves us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us and his love is brought to full expression in us."*
 - H. 1 John 4:19 NLT *"We love each other because he loved us first."*
 - I. 1 John 4: 20 NLT *"And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers."*

V. Conclusion

- God is love and shows us how. Jesus says, if we love Him we will obey. God's love helps us love others in word and deed.
- There's so much more about love but that's our nugget for tonight.