

The Love of God

Learning to Love as God would have us

Love God & Love Your Neighbor

The basis for the entire Old Testament

Matthew 22:37-40

Love is part of the fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22

God's Word works in us to perfect love

1John 2:5

Therefore we must look to God's word to know love

Our Image of Love

- Paradigm - our mental image
 - ▾ Example - Boy in hospital sees doctor
- Our paradigm comes from our perspective and experience
 - ▾ Our perspective isn't wrong but it isn't always the total view- First microscopes only saw cells not the building blocks of the cell.
- Our paradigm can influence our learning
 - ▾ To learn things outside our present image we need to fight against what we already think or as some say, think outside the box.
 - ▾ Sometimes we refer to this as playing the devil's advocate

A Definition of Love

- Love from Matthew 22:37
 - ▾ Greek verb - agapao “agapao”
 - ▾ Definition- to seek the good of another or good will toward another
- Love from 1Corinthians 13:1-8
 - ▾ Greek noun - agape “agape” comes from the above verb
 - ▾ Notice definition consists of actions to do and not do
- The love of God is found in action as well as emotion

Examples of Love

- God's love in giving his Son - 1John 4:9,10
- Christ's love in giving his life - Mark 10:45
- Ruth's devotion to Naomi - Ruth 1:16,17
- Jacob Loved Rachel – Gen 29:15-18
- Society putting to death a murderer - Gen 9:5-6
 - ▼ How can putting someone to death be loving? - Justice
 - ▼ Those who love God should be just - Micah 6:8
- Delivering someone to Satan - 1Corinthians 5:4-5
- Love isn't simply what I think or feel but keeping the commandments of God - 1John 5:1-3

The Love of God

- Our image of Love must be defined by God
- God's definition of love
 - ▼ Love is found in action as well as emotion
 - ▼ The Love of God is keeping His commands