

**Getting to The Bottom of Love Part 1 NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE  
INSTITUTE**

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“GETTING TO THE BOTTOM LINE OF LOVE”

I JOHN 4:1-16

PART I

INTRO: FOR THE THIRD TIME, WE ARE CONSIDERING THE SUBJECT OF LOVE! THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT JOHN RAN OUT OF IDEAS AND HAD TO REPEAT HIMSELF. IT MEANS THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO INSPIRED JOHN, PRESENTS THE SUBJECT ONCE MORE, FROM A DEEPER POINT OF VIEW.

**AS WE REVIEW WE WILL FIND THAT “LOVE FOR THE BRETHREN” HAS BEEN SHOWN AS:**

1. **PROOF OF THE FELLOWSHIP** (I JOHN 2:7-11)
2. **PROOF OF SON SHIP** (I JOHN 3:10-14)

**IN EARLIER PASSAGE, (I JOHN 2:7-11) LOVE FOR THE BRETHREN IS A MATTER OF:**

1. **LIGHT**
2. **DARKNESS**

**IN THE SECOND PASSAGE, (I JOHN 3:10-14) IT IS A MATTER OF: LIFE AND DEATH**

BUT IN (I JOHN 4:7-16), WE GET DOWN TO THE VERY FOUNDATION OF THE MATTER. HERE WE DISCOVER WHY LOVE IS SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE LIFE THAT IS REAL. LOVE IS A VALID TEST OF OUR FELLOWSHIP AND OUR SON SHIP BECAUSE:

**GOD IS LOVE**

**NOTE:** LOVE IS PART OF THE VERY BEING AND NATURE OF GOD. IF WE ARE UNITED TO GOD THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST, WE SHARE HIS NATURE. AND SINCE HIS NATURE IS LOVE, LOVE IS THE TEST OF THE REALITY OF OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE.

**EXAMPLE:** A NAVIGATOR DEPENDS ON A COMPASS TO HELP HIM DETERMINE HIS COURSE. WHY A COMPASS? A COMPASS SHOWS HIM DIRECTIONS. AND WHY DOES THE COMPASS POINT NORTH? IT IS CONSTITUTED TO RESPOND TO THE NATURE OF THE FAITH.

SO IT SHOULD BE THE SAME WITH CHRISTIAN LOVE. THE NATURE OF GOD IS LOVE AND A PERSON WHO KNOWS GOD AND HAS BEEN BORN OF GOD WILL RESPOND TO GOD'S NATURE. AS A COMPASS NATURALLY POINTS NORTH, SO BELIEVERS WILL NATURALLY PRACTICE LOVE BECAUSE LOVE IS THE NATURE OF GOD. THIS LOVE WILL NOT BE A FORCED RESPONSE IT WILL BE A NATURAL RESPONSE. A BELIEVER'S LOVE FOR THE BRETHREN WILL BE PROOF OF HIS:

1. **SON SHIP**
2. **FELLOWSHIP**

THREE TIMES IN THIS SECTION JOHN ENCOURAGED US TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER (I JOHN 4:7; 11-12). HE SUPPORTED THESE ADMONITIONS BY GIVING US THREE FOUNDATIONAL FACTS ABOUT GOD.

1. **WHAT GOD IS "GOD IS LOVE"** (4:7-8) THIS IS THE THIRD OF THREE EXPRESSIONS IN JOHN'S WRITING THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF GOD.
  - A. **GOD IS SPIRIT** AS TO HIS ESSENCE; HE IS NOT FLESH AND BLOOD. TO BE SURE, JESUS CHRIST NOW HAS A GLORIFIED BODY IN HEAVEN, AND ONE DAY WE SHALL HAVE BODIES LIKE HIS BODY. BUT BEING BY NATURE SPIRIT, GOD IS NOT LIMITED BY TIME AND SPACE THE WAY HIS CREATION IS.
  - B. **GOD IS LIGHT-** THIS REFERS TO HIS HOLY NATURE. IN THE BIBLE, LIGHT IS A SYMBOL OF HOLINESS, AND DARKNESS IS A SYMBOL OF SIN (JOHN 3: 18-21; I JOHN 1:5-10) GOD CANNOT SIN BECAUSE HE IS HOLY, BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN BORN INTO HIS FAMILY, WE HAVE RECEIVED HIS HOLY NATURE (I PETER 1:14-16; 2 PETER 1:4).
  - C. **GOD IS LOVE-** THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT "LOVE IS GOD" AND THE FACT THAT TWO PEOPLE "LOVE EACH OTHER" DOES NOT MEAN THAT THEIR LOVE IS NECESSARILY HOLY. IT HAS ACCURATELY BEEN SAID THAT "LOVE DOES NOT DEFINE GOD, BUT GOD DEFINES LOVE" GOD IS LOVE AND GOD IS LIGHT; THEREFORE, HIS LOVE IS A HOLY LOVE, AND HIS HOLINESS IS EXPRESSED IN LOVE. ALL THAT GOD DOES EXPRESSES ALL THAT GOD IS. EVEN HE IS JUDGMENT ARE MEASURED OUT IN LOVE AND MERCY (LAM3:22-23).

NOTE: MUCH THAT IS CALLED "LOVE" IN MODERN SOCIETY BEARS NO RESEMBLANCE OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE HOLY, SPIRITUAL LOVE OF GOD. YET WE SEE BANNERS SAYING "GOD IS LOVE!" DISPLAYED AT MANY FESTIVALS, PARTICULARLY WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE "DOING THEIR OWN THING" AS IF ONE COULD DIGNIFY MORALITY BY CALLING IT LOVE."

CHRISTIAN LOVE IS A SPECIAL KIND OF LOVE. (I JOHN 4:10) “IN THIS WAY IS SEEN THE TRUE LOVE” THERE IS A FALSE LOVE AND THIS KIND OF LOVE GOD MUST REJECT. LOVE THAT IS BORN OUT OF THE VERY ESSENCE OF GOD MUST BE:

1. SPIRITUAL
2. HOLY

BECAUSE GOD IS

1. SPIRIT
2. LIGHT

QUESTION: HOW DO I KNOW I HAVE THIS KING OF LOVE AS A BELIEVER?

ANSWER: ROMANS 5:5

LOVE, THEREFORE, IS A VALID TEST OF TRUE CHRISTIAN FAITH SINCE “GOD IS LOVE” AND WE HAVE CLAIMED A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, WE MUST REVEAL HIS LOVE IN HOW WE LIVE. A CHILD OF GOD HAS BEEN BORN OF GOD AND THEREFORE HE SHARES GODS:

### **DIVINE NATURE**

SINCE GOD IS LOVE, CHRISTIANS OUGHT TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER THE LOGIC IS UNANSWERABLE! NOT ONLY HAVE WE BEEN BORN OF GOD BUT WE ALSO KNOW GOD. IN THE BIBLE, THE WORD KNOW HAS A MUCH DEEPER MEANING THAN SIMPLY:

### **INTELLECTUAL ACQUAINTANCE**

#### **UNDERSTANDING**

BUT MORE OF AN:

**INTIMATE UNION OF A HUSBAND AND WIFE** (GEN4:1) TO KNOW GOD MEANS TO

- A. **BE IN DEEP RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM**
- B. **TO SHARE HIS LIFE AND ENJOY**

NOTE: THIS KNOWING IS NOT SIMPLY A MATTER OF UNDERSTANDING FACTS; IT IS A MATTER OF PERCEIVING THE TRUTH (I JOHN 2:3-5)

WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND “HE WHO DOES NOT LOVE, DOES NOT KNOW GOD, FOR GOD IS LOVE ( I JOHN 4:8)

CERTAINLY MANY UNSAVED PEOPLE LOVE THEIR FAMILIES AND EVEN SACRIFICE FOR THEM, AND NO DOUBT MANY OF THESE SAME PEOPLE HAVE SOME KIND OF INTELLECTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF GOD. WHAT, THEN DO THEY LACK?

**A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF GOD** WHAT DOES THIS KIND OF PERSON KNOWS IN HIS HEAD, BUT HAS NEVER GOTTEN INTO HIS HEART

CLOSE: WHAT GOD IS DETERMINE WHAT WE DO OUGHT TO BE (I JOHN 4:17). THE FACT THAT CHRISTIANS LOVE ONE ANOTHER IS EVIDENCE OF THEIR”

1. **FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD**
2. **SON SHIP FROM GOD**
3. **THEY KNOW GOD**

THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH GOD IS NOT SIMPLY A ONCE- FOR – ALL CRISIS; IT’S A DAILY EXPERIENCE OF GETTING TO KNOW HIM BETTER AND BETTER, TRUE THEOLOGY ( THE STUDY OF GOD) IS NOT A DRY, IMPRACTICAL COURSE IN DOCTRINE- IT IS AN EXCITING DAY BY DAY EXPERIENCE THAT MAKES US CHRIST LIKE!