

True Love
2/02/2020 Sunday AM

Introduction

- Last Sunday looked at **Generational Curses vs Generational Blessings**.
- It is so important that we realize the impact that we have on those around us, especially our children.
- Our example and actions can begin a bad generational cycle, or a good one.
- Any generational cycle can be broken by the next generation, that applies to both bad and good cycles.
- We plant seeds everyday with our witness and example, let's ensure we are planting good seeds!
- With Valentine's Day coming up this week it is fitting for us to talk about **True Love** this morning.
- We live in a world today where people have a mindset that says, "all you need is love."
- If this was meaning God's love, that would have some truth to it. However, what usually goes by the name of love in popular culture is not authentic love at all; it's a deadly fraud.
- It is far from being "all you need," it's something you desperately need to avoid.

Ephesians 5:1-3

¹Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ²and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ³But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

- **V.1** – We see here that we are called to “Be imitators of God.” **What are we imitating?**
- It goes on to identify us as “dearly loved children,” which means we are supposed to know a thing or two about love because we have a Heavenly Father that dearly loves us.
- We are being called to imitate Him in how he loves us as his “dearly loved children.”
- **V.2** – Here we are specifically called to “live a life of love, just as Christ loved us.” (Lit. “walk in love.)
- This verse sums up the whole moral obligation of a Christian. It tells us that we should “walk in love” in the same way that Christ walked in love. **So, how did Christ walk in love?**
- The verse goes on to say, “...and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”
- The love that Christ displayed was a selfless and sacrificial love.
- When Paul commands us to walk in love, he is talking about being kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving to one another. (**Ephesians 4:32**)
- When we walk in love as Christ walked in love, that is really “all we need.”
- **Romans 13:8-10** says, “⁸Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
- True love is always sacrificial, self-giving, merciful, compassionate, sympathetic, kind, generous, and patient. (**1 Corinthians 13:4-8**)
- Now that we have seen the positive side of love in **vv.1-2**, we must also take notice of the negative side too.
- **V.3** – The person that is displaying true love as Christ does, must refuse every kind of counterfeit love.
- Paul names some of these perversions of love in this verse, he says, “³But among you there must not be even a hint of **sexual immorality**, or of any kind of **impurity**, or of **greed**, because these are improper for God's holy people. Paul doesn't stop there he continues with **vv. 4-7**.

Ephesians 5:4-7

⁴Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

⁵For of this you can be sure: No **immoral, impure** or **greedy person**--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷Therefore do not be partners with them.

- **Vv.4-5** - In these verses we see Paul bring up the same three perversions of love from **v.3**.
 - **Immorality** is perhaps our generation's favorite substitute and perversion for love.
 - Paul uses the Greek word ' pornos ' which includes every kind of sexual sin.
 - **The popular culture desperately tries to blur the line between genuine love and immoral passions.**
 - However, all such immorality is a total perversion of true and genuine love because it seeks self-gratification rather than the good of others.
 - **Impurity** is another perversion of love. Paul uses the Greek word ' akathartos ' which means filthy or unclean
 - No kind of impurity has its place in the Christian's walk, no obscenity, foolish talk, or coarse joking, and certainly not the king of impure actions we see happening in our popular culture today disguised as love.
 - **Greed** or covetousness is another perversion of love that stems from a desire for self-gratification.
 - Again, true and genuine love is selfless and sacrificial, not greedy.
 - This is the exact opposite of the example Christ set when He "gave himself up for us".
- Paul equates all of these with idolatry and then goes on to say that no such immoral, impure, or greedy person "has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."
- In **v.3** Paul said that "there must not be even a hint of" of these perversions among "God's people."
- **Vv.6-7** – Paul warns the people, "6Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7Therefore do not be partners with them."
- If we are going to display **True Love**, we cannot tolerate or associate with any perversions of love.
- **"Love" has been redefined in our world today as a broad tolerance that overlooks sin and embraces good and evil alike. That's not love, it's apathy.**
- God's love is not at all like that. Again, it is a pure, sacrificial love. **1 John 4:10** says, "10This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."
- **1 Corinthians 13:6-7** really sums it all up about what **True Love** really is, "6Love **does not** delight in evil but **rejoices with the truth**. 7It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."
- Let's make sure we are walking in **True Love** and not in the cheap perversions and imitations that this world offers.

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

Genesis 11:11-26