

HOW TO SHARE AND RECEIVE GOD'S LOVE

Galatians 5:19-23

INTRODUCTION: Tonight we will be talking about how we can share God's love with others and how we can receive God's love from others in a way that brings glory to our Lord. Sadly many today do not even have the faintest idea of what God's love is, let alone how to receive it or share it. The kind of love the Bible commands us to show is not primarily an emotion. Today we fall in love and we fall out of love. We are commanded to love one another and love involves choice and conduct. It is not how we feel but what we chose that is obedience or disobedience to God's command. In the English language we have one word for love. In the Greek language the word love has three different words: "eros: is erotic love; "Phileo" is a friendship kind of love; and "agape" which is God-like love which is unconditional. We will contrast the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit: Galatians 5:19-21; Galatians 5:22-23.

I. AGAPE LOVE: A DISCRPTION!

God's love: agape love can be described, it is not just a feeling. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. Jesus said others would know we are His disciples by showing His love: John 13:34-35. Let's look at ten qualities that agape love has. 1.) Steadfast love: this kind of love allows us to be patient. When we quit loving others we become unlike our Lord Jesus. 2.) Serving love: Kindness is serving one another: Luke 6:27-29. 3.) Sincere love: Agape love "envies not." Proverbs 14:30. 4.) Self-effacing love: True love enable you to be truly humble: Proverbs 13:10. 5.) Self-restraining love: "It does not behave itself unseemly." True love enables us to be courteous to others. 6.) Self-denying love: "It seeks not her own." God's love does not say "Me first!" 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. 7.) Serene Love: "It is not easily provoked." If you want to know what you are full of just see what comes out when someone jostles you! 8.) Sacrificial love: "It thinketh no evil." It does not keep records of past wrongs. 9.) Sympathetic love: "Rejoiceth not in iniquity." We weep when others fall into sin; not rejoice about it. The gossip rejoices in iniquity because it gives them new ammo. 10.) Suffering love: "True love beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." Love costs us suffering: Isaiah 63:7-9.

II. THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOD'S LOVE!

God's love is from the fruit of the Spirit. The works of the flesh are natural, the fruit of the Spirit is supernatural. We cannot produce this kind of love we can only bear it: John 15:1-5. As we abide in Christ He produces His love in our hearts. Romans 5:5. We need to be channels of God's love. That kind of love comes only by abiding in Jesus Christ. God's love comes from the vine to the branches and on those branches God produces His fruit. Remember the more we share God's love with others the more He will give us more of His love! 2 Corinthians 9:6-7.