

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

PREPARING FOR ETERNITY

RLJ-1554

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PART 14: LOVE 101

LOVE

What is love? In the English language we only have one word for “love.” This word is used to express love for God, love for a person, how we feel about ice cream and the clothes you wear. The New Testament was written in Greek and there are several words used to describe love.

AGAPAO

“Agapao” is a verb while “agape” is a noun which describes the kind of love that God has for humanity. We would add an adjective like divine to describe this love. It was “divine love” that compelled God the Father to send Jesus to be abused, rejected, tormented and killed for mankind. This is an unconditional love. **Romans 5:6-10**

The English word for “divine love” in the King James Bible is “charity.”

DEFINITION OF AGAPE LOVE

The apostle Paul did a thorough job in describing agape love.

Speaking in tongues, having the gift of prophecy and all knowledge are worthless if the person exhibiting these gifts does not possess divine agape love in his life. It doesn't matter if you if you have faith to move mountains, everything is worthless without love.

1 Corinthians 13:1-2

If a person helps the poor and spends all his money in this manner, all his efforts are in vain if there is no divine love. If a person is willing to sacrifice his own life for another, his sacrifice is worthless if he does not have divine love. **verse 3**

Divine love makes a person patient. It removes all feelings of jealousy and pride in a person. **verse 4**

Divine agape love helps you to behave properly toward others and removes all selfishness. It makes it impossible for you to be offended and does not think evil of others. **verse 5**

Divine love makes it impossible for you to rejoice in sinful activities; instead, you will be drawn to the light and want to walk in truth. **verse 6**

Divine love compels you to go the extra mile without murmuring; it is always hopeful and willing to endure hardship. **verse 7**

AGAPE LOVE IS ETERNAL

Paul tells us that divine love is eternal. It is not only for our time here on earth but it is also for eternity. The gifts of the Holy Spirit such as prophecy, speaking in tongues, gift of knowledge and the other gifts provided to believers in Christ are temporary and



specifically for our time on earth. They won't be needed anymore when your physical body dies and you are in heaven.

Christians have limited knowledge on earth but this will change once we are in heaven and everything is revealed. There is no need for someone to prophecy since we will live in a perfect environment. There will be no changes and thus the prophetic gift will no longer be needed. **verses 8-9**

FALSE TEACHING

Pastors and teachers from Baptist denominations have used these verses to falsely teach that the gifts of the Holy Spirit have ceased to exist and there no longer is a supernatural moving by the Holy Spirit as recorded in the Book of Acts. They base this erroneous assumption that there was no need for supernatural gifts once the New Testament was written. They claim the Bible is perfect and these gifts were removed from the earth once it reached completion. **verse 10**

The word perfect means complete; the Bible is the Word of God and without error but it is not complete yet. The apostle John said that everything Jesus said and did was not written down and recorded. **John 21:25**

Jesus is perfect; He is complete and verse 10 refers to the second coming. Once Jesus comes back to earth to set up the 1,000 year kingdom, the gifts of the Holy Spirit will no longer be needed. Only divine love will remain.

Paul makes it clear that we can only see darkly right now, but when Jesus comes back, we will see Him face to face. There were no glass mirrors like we have today in Paul's time. What they had instead was highly polished brass mirrors, where contours could be seen, but there were no sharp details like in a glass mirror. Most Christians misunderstand this passage about the dark glass because they simply don't know Biblical history and the customs at the time of Christ. **1 Corinthians 13:11-12**

NO HOPE AND FAITH IN HEAVEN

There won't be any further need for hope and faith once Jesus has come back and we are in the 1,000 years kingdom. The apostle Paul did not know there would be a millennium kingdom on this earth with Jesus. That was not revealed to mankind until some 30 years after Paul's death when the apostle John received the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

When we live with Jesus, we no longer hope, we know! Nor do we need faith because Jesus is right there to meet every need. Love is one thing that will never cease. Divine love from God will sustain us forever. **verse 13**

Do you plan to start and finish your classes?