

GOD IS LOVE #2

By Don Krider

This message is the second part of "God is love." We ended the first part with **Matthew 26:39** "*Nevertheless, not my will but thine be done.*" We studied in the first message that we have to die to our own desires of the flesh, and come alive to Christ. To accept what God desires for our life, instead of our own.

We say, "Lord, I'm willing to go if it's where I want to go. Lord, I'm willing to do what you want me to do if it's what I want to do." The Lord says, "No, I want you to go over here. I want you to go over there. I want you to go to that individual." "But Lord, that doesn't agree with my will - my plan, Lord, my ministry." You are going to find out that God gets rid of your ministry that His ministry might begin to be fulfilled.

The love of God is simple. It's a simple plan. God is love, we are His children, and if we are children of love, then the thing that must come from us is love. Don't worry about the other beautiful things that God has put in the body; they will follow them that believe. So we are going to start with **1 John 4:11-12:**

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us.

God is a Spirit. He moved into a body called "Jesus" and was manifested to the world. Now He moves in human vessels of clay and He said, "Here is the love of God." You can talk about the love of God, but unless it's manifested it doesn't mean anything.

The world confuses love with lust. "I'm getting my satisfaction." The love of God satisfies others first, and then it is satisfied because that person has been touched.

The love of God is a beautiful thing, friend. That love has to be manifested and the world is dying for lack of love. There's a song that says, "What the world needs now is love," and that song is true.

What the world needs is love but not man's love, not man's lust, not man's way. They need God's people standing up and loving one another so the world can see Christ and begin to say, "Hey, look how they love one another."

When you have ¹ought in your own heart against your brother, which you are not supposed to have, then the love of God is not perfected in you. There is an area you can't love because that area is blinded to you. You love then on conditions and on reactions, but the love of God never loved on a condition or a reaction. The love of God loved because the need was there to be loved.

The world can't see God and you cannot see Him, but I can look at my Christian brothers and sisters, and I can see God. That is how God is manifested in the world today - through His believers. "Manifested" means "made known, shown openly." Don't tell people you love them if they are hungry and you won't feed them. Don't tell a brother who is in need that you love him if you have the wherewithal to minister to that need, but you don't help him. You don't really love him. How does the love of God dwell in you? It doesn't! Don't kid yourself.

If you are not willing to be dead to self that others might live, then you don't have the love of God dwelling in you. You have your own love dwelling. If your love fails, it's your love. **God's love never fails.** The love of God saved me. The love of God healed me. The love of God delivered me. The love of God through brothers and sisters ministered to me many, many times.

If you have a need for \$20 and I say, "I'm going to pray for you," but I have a twenty-dollar bill in my pocket, the love of God will reach into the billfold and give you the \$20 and say, "The Lord bless you."

The love of God doesn't look at what it has left. Jesus became bankrupt. Come on! Jesus took your sickness. Jesus took the judgments of God that you had coming to you because He loved you.

Stephen loved the nation of Israel so much that He would not bring an accusation against them, even though they stoned him to death. His last desire was that God would not remember it against them.

Paul's desire was that Israel would be saved even if he himself were lost. What kind of love is that? "Lord, you know I have places to go, I have things to do, people to see." Seventy years come and go and maybe eighty by reason of strength; even one hundred and twenty years is gone.

You have gone a lot of places, seen a lot of things, fooled a lot of people; but how many people did you leave behind you wounded, bloody, and torn asunder by words that you spoke. How many were hurt on the battlefield that you could have saved, you could have healed by a considerate word or a deed of action?

You see, God is not a God who sits in the corner. I have news for you, when Stephen was being stoned to death, the Heavens opened and do you know what he saw? He didn't see Jesus sitting on the right hand of God. He saw Jesus standing.

Acts 7:55-56 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

Jesus was standing. Do you know what He was doing? He said, "Stephen, come on, get out of that earthen vessel. Let's go home." Come on saints! Do you know why? Because Stephen had the love of God. Stephen was manifesting God's love. Stephen was dying for Israel just as surely as Jesus had died for her, not laying any sin to their charge.

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When we can get to an attitude of prayer that way, when we can have a life that is lived that way, you won't have to try to get people to church. They will want to know where you go to church. They will want to be in that congregation where all they hear is love, where all they ever see is love.

Cults grow quickly because they minister to the natural need of man. They win them over to their way of thinking simply because they are taking care of a natural need.

Yet Jesus said, "When you see your brother hungry, feed him. When you see him in prison, visit him. When you see him thirsty, give him a drink. When you see him naked, clothe him. When you have done this unto the least of these, my brethren, you have done it unto me" (Matt 25:31-46).

If Jesus were standing here needing a pair of shoes, we would take our own shoes off and give them to him, wouldn't we. When you see a brother or sister in need you are doing it to Jesus.

It's the love of God. What a commission you and I have to love one another. Herein is God's love manifested. No man has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwells in us.

John 13:35 By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another.

If you don't love one another, God's love doesn't dwell in you. You may be religious, you may have gone to church all your life, but if you don't have the true love that will give your life for your brother and sister, God doesn't dwell in you. That is the word of God, and God is not a man that He can lie.

Num 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Rom 3:3-4 For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, that thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

What is truth? Jesus said in His prayer to the Father:

John 17:17-19 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

"Thy word, Oh God, is truth." If God said love one another even as Jesus Christ has loved you, don't you think that we should get busy?

1 John 4:7-12 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

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Today, all around the world, there are people dying for the love of God. Satan comes along and substitutes a false love. The Church says, "Well, we will pray for them." We don't need to just pray for them; we need to be out there to love them. We need to show them what real love is like. We need to show our children, our neighbors, people on the job, whomever we are around, what real love will do.

When the neighbor is sick, go and visit him. Take him a hot bowl of soup or whatever. Go over there and visit and pray for him.

Mat 19:19 ...Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

In all of my visits to the sick, I have only had one sick man reject a prayer that I wanted to pray for him. What an opportunity we miss. We need to be walking vessels of love. Not judgmental, not critical, not religious, but loving one another, even as Christ loved us.

Romans 5:5 ... the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

If you get sick I'm not going to criticize you for getting sick. I'm going to come over, lay my hands on you, and pray for you. It isn't any of my business how it happened to you. That's your business. That's between you and God.

My business is to go heal you, not to hold court to find out if you are worthy to get healed or not. Were you worthy to be saved? Did you have one good quality that God really needed? There was nothing good about me. I was dead in my sins and trespasses when Jesus came along. There is nothing good about being dead

Jesus never criticized. He loved them. When the sick came to Him, though He knew they were forsaken, He healed them. When they came to Him hungry, though He knew they would leave Him as soon as He started preaching the gospel, He fed them. See, real love doesn't look for repayment. Real love just loves because the opportunity is there.

Jesus was sent of the Father that we might live through Him.

Jesus said, "As the Father sent me, even so send I you" (John 20:21).

We preach a lot about the healing power, and we preach a lot about the deliverance power, but very few of us ever preach about the death power.

John 10:17-18 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Jesus said, "I have come to die, but I have power to lay my life down and to take it again. If any man will follow me, let him deny himself and die daily, take up his cross and come after Me." We have

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power to deny ourselves. We have power to lay the old man down. We have power to crucify him that others might see Christ and live also through Him.

Isn't that beautiful! Herein is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and gave Himself for us. Revival doesn't come from outside; it comes from within the heart. When we love enough, revival is no problem; we stay revived. I don't need a revival. I got one over thirty years ago. I got a revival in my heart in my living- room. It's been there ever since. The only word that it needs is love to feed that fire.

The disciples were there in that upper room because they loved the Lord; they were obedient. Obedience is a sign of love. If you really love, you will be obedient.

Jesus said in John 14:23: If a man loves me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

He didn't say keep my commandments, but you will keep **My words** if you love Me. So they were told to go to the upper room and wait there (**Acts chap.1**)

In a society that was so oriented to hate Jesus and hate the very name, one hundred and twenty people were faithful to love Him enough, even if it cost them their life, to go into a city that had just crucified him. Jesus had told them to tarry in Jerusalem until they received the Holy Ghost and were endued with power. They were willing to die in that city; they loved Him that much.

They went to that city, they prayed, they were together, they were in one accord, they were in one place, and because they loved the Lord and "loved not their lives unto the death" (**Rev 12:11**), the Holy Ghost came. One hundred and twenty men and women died to the flesh in the upper room; those new creatures came forth; and three thousand souls were converted through the gospel of Christ.

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

We quote the scripture that says, "They overcame him by the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony," but we never record the part in our conversation, "and they held not their lives dear unto death."

One hundred and twenty men and women so loved Jesus Christ, and so believed that what He said was true, that they went to the city of His execution and brought the gospel of love so that three thousand were converted.

The reason that there are not more conversions than there are today is that there is no manifested love. We blame it on the times. We blame it on the seasons. Jesus didn't say that. Jesus said that we are in the harvest.

Mat 9:37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few;

John 4:35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

We are in the end of it and it's the greatest harvest. ⁵

Haggai 2:9 The glory of the latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts.

We have made enough excuses. It's time that we begin to die to self and let the love of God be manifested in our lives. If one hundred and twenty people could do it, I'm sure we can do it. They didn't have any scripture; they didn't have Bibles to back up what they were believing. They were believing His spoken word, and because they were believing, it was written of them. It's written of you when you believe also. It's recorded in a book.

Mal 3:16-17 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

It's recorded of you. Every time that you speak of the Lord and gather yourself together, read it - it is written. I don't want a lot of blank space behind my name. If I have to leave this old world before He comes back, I would like to have on my tombstone, "Everywhere he went, he loved." No great sermons, no great preacher, just "everywhere he went, he loved."

That's all they could ever say about Jesus. The Bible says He went about doing good. If you lump it together, everywhere He went, He loved. Because He loved, it got Him killed. We need to manifest God's love and quit talking about it, manifest it and see God do great things.

Let's look at **1 John 4:18-19:**

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us.

Notice that perfect love casts out fear, not ALL fear. It casts out the fear that is not of God. There is a reverent fear of God that belongs in the heart of the believer, but there should be no fear in us of other things. We are not to be a fearful people.

We're not to be a people worried about what is going to happen to the world, or what's going to happen in the economy. If there is fear in us, there are areas of our life that have not been yet brought into maturity. If you worry about your family, if you worry about business, if you worry about your job, if you worry about anything, that is an area of your life that you have not brought into maturity. You are going to have to let that go, and let God begin to work in that area in your life.

1 John 4:18 ...perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment.

Fear hath torment: you are always afraid. You are afraid that you are going to lose everything, your health, your money, your position, and your reputation, everything that you possess. Let's see what Jesus said:

Luke 9:23-25 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. For

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what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?

Mat 6:24-25 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. (Or self) herefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Mat 6:31-33 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Where-withal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for

your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

The time is at hand when the Church is going to get their eyes off of everything except Jesus Christ, and they are going to begin to project that.

Mat 6:19-21 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.