

Christians Love Each Other

Text : **I Sam. 18: 1-5 & 19: 1-7**

INTRODUCTION :

A. Of all the people in the world, who is most dedicated to you ?

1. Was / is it your parents ?
2. Your spouse ?
3. One of your siblings ?
4. Or is there a very special friend.

B. Our text related the story of two friends who were devoted to each other.

1. Some blasphemous people attempt to use this friendship between David and Jonathan to justify homosexuality.
 - a. This is blasphemy because David is a man after God's own heart. (**I Sam. 13:14**)
*** To say the man after God's heart was a pervert is to say God is a pervert.**
 - c. God would not contradict His own condemnation of homosexuality.
 - 1) **Lev. 18: 22-30 ; 20: 13**
 - 2) **I Cor. 6: 9-10**
2. Jonathan was so devoted to David the bible says :
 - a. **I Sam. 18: 1** ... Their souls were knit together.
 - b. **I Sam. 20: 17** ... Jonathan loved him as his own soul. (Cf.- *Neighbor as self*)
 - c. **I Sam. 20: 23** ... They said, "**The Lord is between us.**"
 - d. **II Sam. 4: 4** ... David cared for Jonathan's son as one of his own. (**Mephiboseth**)
3. Jonathan helped David elude his father knowing it would cost him his kingdom.
 - a. **I Sam. 18: 4** ... He gave David his symbols of royalty.
 - b. **I Sam. 20: 31**- "**For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Therefore now, send and bring him to me, for he must surely die.**"
 - c. Befriending David cost Jonathan his relationship with his father.

C. This is the kind of relationship God wants between Christians.

1. **Rom. 12: 9-10** **Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; (cf – Gal. 6: 10)**
 - a. "**one another**" refers to Christians
 - b. "**without hypocrisy**" **requires** the love must be real, not pretended or in word only.

2. This love is that which distinguishes Christians from the world.

John 13: 34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are My disciples, IF you have love for one another.
3. Christians are to love everyone.
 - a. We must love our neighbors as our selves. **Matt. 22: 39**
 - b. We must even love our enemies. **Matt. 5: 44**
4. There is a special love-bond between siblings in the family of God.

THEREFORE, let us take just a few minutes to examine this very special relationship.

I. The most often repeated command in the N.T. is for Christians to love each other.

- A. It is repeated 4 time more often than the next most often repeated command.
 1. Baptism is commanded 13 times. (**We view that as an indication of importance.**)
 2. Love is commanded more than 50 times.
- B. Here are a few examples :
 1. **II John 5-** Now I ask you, lady, not as though I were writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another.
 2. **I John 4:21-** And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.
 3. **I John 4:7-** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
 4. **I John 3: 10-11** By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. ¹¹ For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;
 - 23- This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.
 5. **I John 2: 10-11** The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. ¹¹ But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.
 6. **I Pet. 1:22-** Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,
 7. **Heb. 13: 1-** Let love of the brethren continue.

8. **Heb. 10: 24-** and let us consider how to motivate one another to love and good deeds,
9. **Col. 3: 14-** Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.
10. **Eph 5: 1-2** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; ² and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.
11. **Eph 4: 1-2** Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,
12. **I Cor. 13** ... whole chapter (briefly paraphrase)

II. Developing the love bond is essential to salvation.

- A. Jesus taught that loving one's neighbor is the second most important command.
Matt. 22: 39- The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'
- B. Love is the summation of God's law.
 1. The law was to regulate :
 - a. Man's treatment of God.
 - b. Man's treatment of man.
 2. Love accomplishes these purposes.
Rom. 13: 10- Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
- C. Loving one's brother is a prerequisite to loving God. (**Can't have one w/o the other.**)
 1. **I John 5: 1-3** Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.
 2. **I John 4: 11-12** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.
 3. **I John 4: 20-** If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.
 4. **I John 4: 8-** The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
- D. Heaven will be fantastic because everyone there will love you.

1. Imagine living in a place where :
 - a. No one ever tries to hurt you.
 - b. Everyone tries to please you.
2. There will not be even one person in Heaven who is not a loving person.
3. You won't have to tiptoe around for fear of offending
Bro. Lemon Sucker or Sis. Knitie Picker. **They won't be there.**

III. Christians are called for the very purpose of demonstrating love on earth.

A. God ~~-IS-~~ love so He must project Himself on earth as love.

1. The church is the body of Christ. (**Eph. 1: 22-23**)
 - a. Jesus is God. (**John 1: 1-2, 14**)
 - b. Thus, the church is the physical presence of God on the earth.
2. God is love. (**I John 4: 8**)
3. THEREFORE, in order to be the body of Christ, the church must be love.

B. It is God's goal for Christians to be and to project love.

1. **I Tim. 1: 5-** But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.
2. **I Pet. 1:22-** Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

C. When the world sees a Christian, God wants them to see His love in action.

IV. Love is an easily learned skill. (Doesn't require high I.Q. to learn.)

A. Many Christians make the mistake of waiting for it to happen to them.

1. Hollywood has been a very poor teacher of love.
 - a. They don't even know what real love is.
 - b. Hollywood's number one objective is to get money.
 - c. They appeal to the lust of man's flesh in order to get money.
2. The "emotion" that draws a woman to a man (and vice versa) is passion, not love.
 - a. Passion is necessary for the propagation of the species.
 - b. Without it people would not breed.
 - c. It is from God, but it is not love.
3. When it is emotion that draws people together, they are seeking satisfaction.

- a. Once desire is satisfied, that emotion alone will not hold people together.
- b. That's why TV couples are constantly coming apart. (**One can love enemies.**)

B. One decides to love and then goes about learning how to do it.

1. **Eph. 4: 11-16** ... **Every leader in God's church is responsible for building up every member of the body so that each individual part works properly resulting in the whole being : "causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."**
2. **II Pet. 1: 5-11** ... Christians keep adding things (*morality, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, kindness*) to their faith until they develop the ability to love.
 - a. If we don't develop it they are "**useless**" and "**unfruitful.**"
 - b. If we learn to love, we abundantly secure their Heavenly home.

V. Thus, there is a special bond between Christians that exists no where else.

A. Christians are "born again" to enter the family of God.

1. **John 3: 7** ... Jesus said it was essential.
2. **I Pet. 1: 3, 23** ... Christians are referred to as born again.

B. When one is "born again" he is born of God.

1. **I John 3: 9-** **No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.**
2. **I John 4: 7-** **Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.**
3. **I John 5: 1-2** **Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.**
4. Being born of God, we are children of God.
 - a. **Rom. 8: 16**
 - b. **I John 3: 1-2, 10**
 - c. **Gal. 4: 7**

C. THEREFORE, Christians are siblings of the same father.

1. We are all linked by the blood of Christ.
2. Jesus is our older brother. (**Joint heirs with King Jesus. ... Rom. 8:17**)
3. Physical families are temporary, but the family of God is eternal.

D. THUS, Christians treat each other as brothers and sisters.

1. **I Tim. 5: 1-2** ... This was given as a command.
2. Blood is thicker than water ... **especially the blood of God.**
3. All through the N.T. Christians are referred to as brethren.

E. All Christians remain brothers no matter where they go on earth or in Heaven.

1. Neither time nor distance can break chains of DNA or of love.
2. All Christians must love every other Christian. (**Our salvation depends on it.**)
 - a. We have brothers and sister we have never seen; **love them.**
 - b. We have brothers and sisters in other countries; **love them.**
 - c. We have brothers and sisters that are different colors; **love them.**
3. Love of these far away brothers **is commanded, not optional.**
 - a. **I Pet. 2: 17- Love the brotherhood.**
 - b. **BROTHERHOOD** includes all Christians everywhere, **not just this congregation.**
 - c. To love “**all the saints**” brings God’s praise.
 - 1) **Col. 1: 3-4** We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;
 - 2) **Eph. 1:15-** For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers;
4. Love must be for all in the congregation, not one’s own close friends. (**clicks kill**)

CONCLUSION :

- A. This is by no means meant to be a chastisement, but the admonition as Paul gave.

I Thes. 4: 9-10 Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; ¹⁰ for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more.
- B. Since God established it as the goal of our doctrine (**I Tim. 1: 5**) it’s each our goals.
- C. Love is a process toward which we grow. (**II Pet. 1: 5-11** , **Eph. 4: 11-16**)
- D. Give the importance God placed upon it, it must remain a top priority for this church.
- E. It won’t just happen, we must work at it, be proactive, take concrete steps.