

Jude 21

Keeping in God's Love

In His love ...

- I. Rest in It
 - A. He Has Told You
 - B. He Has Shown You
- II. React to It
 - A. Consider the Cost
 - B. Consider the Value
 - C. Consecrate Your Life
- III. Reflect it
 - A. "As I Have Loved You"
 - B. "Love One Another"

... anticipating His mercy.

Children, Listen ...

1. Fill in the blank for the summary of God's law ...
___ ___ ___ the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul and strength and
___ ___ ___ your neighbor as yourself.
2. Can you give some reasons why we should love God?
3. Who showed us perfect love and how did He show it?
4. What will people think if God's people love one another?
5. Is it easy to really love someone the way God tells us to? How can we get help?

Agape Immersion

God has shown His love to His people in countless ways. In response we are to live our lives in gratitude to Him. The most basic element of the life of gratitude is love. As Jesus makes clear in His summary of the Law (quoting Deuteronomy), such love is first God-ward and then man-ward. The Lord makes it simple, He tells us that love for Him is expressed through obeying His commands. In other words the life of gratitude is a life of obedience. Of course true, meaningful obedience arise from a heart that is impassioned with heartfelt devotion to Him. We are also told that true love for God will be expressed in genuine love for our brothers and sisters in Christ. If we don't love the body of Christ, we don't love Christ. We are commanded to love our neighbor (which according to Jesus is basically everyone we come in contact with) including even our enemies. One might say to live the Christian life is to be immersed in His love so much so that we are saturated with it – so much so that it overflows to those around us. The dynamics of such love, while simply stated in God's Word does not mean that it is easy to do. We need to know God's grace in order to respond to Him in love and we must be filled with God's grace in order to show the grace of love to others. We may have a lot at Covenant and we may be a lot as individuals, but without love, we are nothing.