

INTRODUCTION

A. **WHEN WILL I BE LOVED?** (*Everly Brothers, 1960; Linda Ronstadt, 1975*)

B. **LOVE: DO GOOD OUT OF AFFECTIONATE REGARD** (Dt.7:7f; Lk.6:27f; 1Pt.1:22; 1Jn.3:16-18)

C. **GOD IS LOVE: KNOW GOD, KNOW LOVE** (1Jn.3:16; 4:7,8,16)

I. GOD'S LOVE IS SELF-INITIATING (unconditional)

A. **HE LOVED US FIRST** (1Jn.4:10,16,19; see Jn.17:24; Eph.1:4)

B. **HE LOVED THE HATEFUL** (Dt.9:5,7,22-24; Rom.5:8; Ezk.16; Hosea)

C. **CONCLUSION: HE LOVED FREELY** (Hos.14:4)

II. GOD'S LOVE IS RECIPROCATING (perpetuating)

A. **INITIAL RECIPROCATION: OUR LOVE FOR HIM** (1Jn.4:19; Dt.5:10; 6:5)

B. **CONTINUAL RECIPROCATION: HIS FURTHER LOVE FOR US** (Dt.7:7,8/9/13; Ps.91:14; 1Jn.4:10,19/5:1/Jn.14:23; 16:27)

C. **THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR RECIPROCATING LOVE: OBEDIENCE** (Dt.5:10; 7:9; 11:1; Jn.14:15,21f; 1Jn.5:2,3/14,15)

III. GOD'S LOVE IS EXTENDING (multiplying)

A. **THROUGH & BEYOND INITIAL OBJECTS TO THEIR HOUSEHOLD** (*family*; Dt.4:37; 5:10; 7:9; 15:16; Acts 2:39; 16:15,31f; see Eph.1:4-6 with Heb.2:13)

B. **THROUGH & BEYOND INITIAL OBJECTS TO THEIR BRETHREN** (*church*; 1Jn.4:10,11; 20,21; Jn.13:34; 15:9-12; Heb.13:1)

C. **THROUGH & BEYOND INITIAL OBJECTS TO THEIR NEIGHBORS** (*community*; Lev.19:18,34; Lk.10:27f; Eph.5:2,33)

IV. ILLUSTRATIONS: THE FAMILY; THE CHURCH

V. BE LOVED IN ORDER TO LOVE! (1Jn.4:10f,19f)

A. **OUR COMFORT: GOD'S LOVE FOR US IS ETERNAL & UNCHANGEABLE** (2Th.2:16,13; Jn.10:29,17; see Jn.17:24 & Eph.1:4; see Rom.8:35f; Gal.2:20; Eph.3:14f)

B. OUR CHALLENGE: RECIPROCATE & EXTEND GOD'S LOVE

1. *reciprocate God's love by doing His revealed will* (Dt.6:5; Jn.14:15,21f; 1Jn.4:10,19; 5:2; 2Tm.3:16f)

2. *extend God's love by loving your neighbor from the heart in word & deed* (1Jn.3:18; Mt.25:25f; 2Cor.8:12-14; 1Tm.5:8)

3. *summary: the great commandment* (Mt.22:37f; see Dt.6:5; Lev.19:18; Rom.13:8; Gal.5:14)

4. *note: the one & the many* (Mt.22:39; see Eph.5:28-30; 4:25; Jer.29:7)

C. HIS PROVISION: THE INDUCTION OF GOD'S LOVE

1. *to love God*, KNOW His love in Christ (1Jn.4:10,19; Jn.3:16 /Rom.8:35f; Gal.2:20; Eph.3:14f)

2. *to love your neighbor*, KNOW His love in Christ (1Jn.10:11; Jn.13:34 /Rom.8:35f; Gal.2:20; Eph.3:14f)

3. *to be loved*, MAKE KNOWN His love in Christ (1Jn.4:19; Lk.6:35; 9:23; Jn.17:26; eg, marriage, children, job, neighbors, enemies)

Brethren, what shall WE DO? (see Acts 2:37f)