

Intro:

VIII. Supernatural Love

A. The Ability to Love - vs 22a

1. Since you have purified your souls

a. The Scripture is clear that unbelievers do not have the capacity to demonstrate genuine love - Jo 5:42; 1 Jo 2:9, 11; 3:10; 4:20

i. everything that an unbeliever does is tainted by sin - Ro 3:10-12

ii. So genuine love is seen from God's perspective, not man's

b. It is at conversion that one is given the capacity to demonstrate supernatural love - Ro 5:5

c. Salvation make a person new - 2 Co 5:17; Eph 4:24; 1 Jo 3:9

d. **hagnizo** - to make clean, sanctify (ceremonially or morally):--purify (self).

i. perfect part. Meaning past action w/ continuing results

ii. God cleansed our impure past and gave new capabilities for service - 4:1-3; Heb 9:22-23

iii. Translated in a way that looks like human effort but has to be a fully divine act

2, in obeying the truth

a. though not mentioned, faith is assumed since it is necessarily associated with salvation - 1:9; Ac 14:27; 15:9; 20:21; 26:18; Ro 3:22, 25-28; 4:5; 5:1; Gal 2:16; 3:11, 24, 26; Eph 2:8; Phil 3:9; 2 Th 2:13; 2 Tim 3:15

b. inherent element of faith therefore a defining of faith

c. in the NT, obedience is a synonym of faith - Acts 5:32; Ro 16:26; 2 Th 1:8; 1 Pe 4:17

3. through the Spirit - Ro 5:5; 1 Th 4:9; 1 Jo 3:14, 23;

B. Who are we to Love - vs 22b

1. in sincere love

a. sincere - **anupokritos** - undissembled, sincere:--without dissimulation (hypocrisy), unfeigned. - Ro 12:9a

b. The prevailing standard for believers - Ro 12:10; 2 Co 6:6; Phil 2:1-2; Heb 13:1; 1 Jo 3:11

2. of the brethren, - **philadelphia** - fraternal affection:--brotherly love (kindness), love of the brethren.

C. How are we to Love - vs 22c

1. love one another

a. **agapao** - to love (in a social or moral sense):--(be-)love(-ed).

b. an exercise of the will,

i. not based on emotion

ii. not determined by the beauty or desirability of the object

2. fervently

a. **ektenos** - intently:--fervently.

b. a physiological term meaning to stretch to the furthest limit

c. Metaphorically means to go all out, to reach the furthest extent of something

3. with a pure heart

a. not from a legalistic requirement

b. fruit of the indwelling Holy Spirit - Ro 12:9-10; Ga 5:16; 22-25; Eph 5:15-21; 1Th 4:9; 1Ti 1:5; Heb 13:1; 1Pe 2:17; 4:8; 2Pe 1:7; 1Jo 3:18; 4:7,21

D. Why should we Love them - vs 23-25

1. having been born again,
 - a. **anagennao** - to beget or bear (again):--beget,
 - i. perfect participle - past action with continuing results
 - ii. Salvation happened in the past, the results being loving one another
 - b.
2. Seed - **spora** - a sowing, i.e. (by implication) parentage:--seed.
 - a. not of corruptible seed but incorruptible,
 - i. **phthartos** - decayed, perishable:--corruptible.
 - anything physical in nature is perishing already
 - growth in the first 25 years of life is due to more cells dividing than are dying, but death already has its clutches in us at birth
 - ii. **aphthartos** - undecaying (in essence or continuance):--not (in-, un-) corruptible, immortal.
 - Jas 1:18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.
 - 1Jo 3:9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.
 - Jo 3:5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
 - Eze 36:25-26 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.
 - b. through the word of God which lives and abides forever,
 - i. Mt 5:18 "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.
 - ii. Lu 16:17 "And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail.
 - iii. Jas 1:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.
 - iv. **Mt 13:18-23**
3. because "All flesh is as grass, - Isa 40:6, 8
 - a. All Flesh - refers to all humans and animals
 - b. grass - referring to the wild grass in a middle eastern countryside
 - c. all the glory the flower of the grass.
 - i. denotes the beauty of the scenery in which colorful flowers rise above the grass
 - ii. The grass withers, And its flower falls away,
 - you could be common as grass or beautiful like the flower
 - both wither and die - Ps 103:15; Isa 51:12; Jas 1:10
4. But the word of the LORD
 - a. the Gospel - the power of God unto salvation - Ro 1:16
 - b. **rhema** - an utterance; a matter or topic, saying, word.
 - i. rather than the usual **logos** used in broad reference to the scripture
 - ii. Preached - **euaggelizo** - to announce good news ("evangelize") especially the gospel:--declare, bring (declare, show) glad (good) tidings, preach (the gospel).
 - c. imperishable seed which endures forever