

Living the Faith

- **Are you spending at least 5 minutes a day at least 5 days a week reading your Bible?**
- **Have you shared your conversion story/or a God story?**
- **Are you hearing what the Spirit is saying?**
- **Did you spend some alone time with God this week?**

Praises

- **12 baptisms last Sunday! Praise God for His life changing power!**
- **Final Inspections should be this week for all move-in requirements by city!**
- **Red Rock preview service today with full launch March 6th! (Jan \$294 change)**
- **Praising God for the coming changes as we move forward as a church body.**

1 John 4

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he

loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

- **It is very clear in the teaching of 1 John that love comes from God (v7) & that God is love (v8 & v16).**
- **Therefore – without having a relationship with God through Jesus Christ it is impossible to love and to know love!!!**
- **So, we have developed a problem in that we have all experienced what we thought was love before we knew God and it has failed us! The problem is not in love or God but us!**

- **We are given an illustration of what love is in v9-10**

“... This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love:”

- **This was done not because we were seeking God or asking God for love but because He loved us and He knew we needed this!**

- **When we receive forgiveness for our sins we receive love from God! (v7) *Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God...***
- **Here is where the problem comes for us... we receive God's love in us but we are still struggling with the way we have learned love before Christ came into our life... the love we learned before Christ was self-centered and only given in portions to those we chose or felt deserved it!**

- **We are struggling within the covenant of marriage to love... and yet we are called by God to love everyone! Friends, neighbors, enemies etc.!!!**

1 John 4:13-16

13 Here is the testimony of what a believer lives like: This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 If anyone

acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

- If we claim to be a Christian we MUST LIVE IN LOVE!**
- Unconditionally forgive and let go of all the offences that have come against us... to love is to seek to make those around us whole/healed!**

1 John 4:17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.

- **If you claim to be a Christian then you are claiming God lives in you... You are then called to live through His Spirit, which means you love unconditionally, you forgive unconditionally, you are LIKE JESUS!!!**
- **Yes you live vulnerably and you get hurt by loving BUT true love is worth it!**

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

- **Many of us struggle with fear**
- **Fear of past hurts... fear of past failures... fear of _____**
- **Fear robs us of love!**

1 John 4:19-21

19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

- **As a Christian, I love first... not waiting to respond to others but I respond to others with love first!**
- **Love wants something better for others, love cares about their wellbeing, love wants something better for them!**
- **There can not be 1 person you hate and claim to have love... in other words 'be a Christian'!**
- **Are you a Christian?**

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

1 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 what love is NOT

It is NOT languages

It is NOT prophecy

It is NOT faith

It is NOT charitable giving

It is NOT willful suffering

- **ALL OF THESE CAN BE ACTS OF LOVE but without love they stand empty and alone!**
- **Next we are told what love IS!**

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Action Steps

- **Have you received the love of God in your own life?**
- **Are you living in fear?**
- **Are you living in love?**
- **Is there anyone you are not loving?**
- **Is there an area of love you are struggling in? (*Patience, kindness, envy, boastfulness, pride, dishonoring, self-seeking, celebrating evil*)**