

**Daniel Perrin – L13: Love is the Fulfillment of the Law – Thursday, March 27: Above All, Love One Another**

1. **1 Peter 4:8** – *And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”*
  - Above all / Number One / Most Importantly / First and Foremost / the CRUX of the matter / If you forget everything else... / It ALL comes down to *this*
    - Do YOU ... LOVE – ONE – ANOTHER
    - “one another” or “each other” – Love EVERY SINGLE PERSON WHO IS NOT YOU
  - Paul says, *“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.” (Romans 8:13, NIV).*
  - It’s not Paul’s words. Jesus said, *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” (John 13:34).*
  - Do YOU love – one – another? How can you tell?
2. What is Love?
  - But if it were possible that a visitor from another world were to land here and choose you as the ambassador of the human race and ask YOU, “What is Love?” — What would YOU say
    - Especially with these words ringing in your ear: “Above all, love one another”
  - How would you describe love?
    - There’s no FORMULA — do *this* / say *this*
    - Love may involve saying difficult things
    - Ultimately? ... Love is going to involve Doing Hard Things
3. The person who God’s Word calls “the disciple Jesus LOVED” could tell us about love
  - He says, “I’ve seen love.” / You have too – or you *could* if you look where I am about to point you to.
  - **1 John 4:10** starts with “In this is love.” / The NIV is more plain: “THIS IS LOVE.”
    - The NIV (for children) is plainer yet: “Here is what love is.”
    - Finishing the text with the NKJV: “...not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”
  - Points us to the Man of Calvary.
4. “I couldn’t put it into words if I *tried*! — Come with me to see”
  - Then he takes you to Gethsemane
    - There you see Jesus collapsing under the weight of YOUR sin
    - Taking your sin on Himself — the filthiness of it that He knows His Father must turn away from Him as He picks it up.
    - Pressed with the desire to return to the adoration of angels and the acceptance of His Father
    - He turns His back on comfort and praise and takes your sin UPON Himself
    - LUKE ADDS: His physical body can’t even handle the terror of losing connection with the Father: from pressure words can not describe, blood breaks through the walls of Jesus’ capillaries and escapes through His skin.
  - This is JESUS – 100% untainted by ANY sin (thought/act/habit/history/will)
  - The disciple Jesus loved followed Jesus to the courtroom, and he invites you to come too
    - Motivated by satan
    - A well-educated and respectably-attired committee of religious leaders joins hands with the authoritative political leaders of the day — who are unopposed in their power to destroy life at a moment’s notice.
    - But Jesus could upend their whole system with the power of His Word
    - He could unveil them as frauds / Humiliate them with His power
    - He could make it ALL - GO - AWAY
    - BUT, He accepted abuse / beating / mockery / humiliation / shame / lies told about Him / abandonment by EVERY supporter He had ever had

- EVERY support is pulled away from Him
  - And He did not change His decision
  - The disciple Jesus loved takes you to Calvary
5. I don't think that I can emphasize this too much
- a. If you want to know what love is, look to Jesus
    - Every look to Jesus ultimately focuses its attention on the cross
    - This is the ONLY way to know Love
    - You might see glimpses of love (REFLECTIONS, really) when you study other people... but you will not learn what love is by studying another person.
  - b. You can't MAKE YOURSELF LOVE
    - BUT ... when we TRULY *begin* to understand (and that's all we will EVER be able to do — just BEGIN to understand) what salvation cost Jesus
    - Then WE will begin to respond: "How can I not love others?!"
6. I can't tell you how to love THIS neighbor or THAT child, TODAY'S friend, or TOMORROW'S enemy
- But I can share with you this 6-word phrase from the first chapter of **Desire of Ages (22.1)**: "*Only by love ... is love awakened.*"
  - LOVE converts the world
  - Right Doctrine (DOCTRINE MUST BE RIGHT) convinces
  - But LOVE converts
7. God IS love / Love IS His Character / His Law expresses His Character / His Law is Love
- a. This is the Law of Life described in **DA 19.2**: "*Both the redeemed and the unfallen beings will find in the cross of Christ their science and their song. It will be seen that the glory shining in the face of Jesus is the glory of self-sacrificing love. In the light from Calvary it will be seen that the law of self-renouncing love is the law of life for earth and heaven....*"
    - In other words, this is the way Heaven works
    - This is the way Earth was SUPPOSED to work
    - We RECEIVE from God FOR THE PURPOSE of GIVING to others
    - WHEN you focus on RECEIVING:
      - THINKING ABOUT what Jesus did (Reading / Meditating / Conversing with God and others) ...
      - Something is going to CHANGE in you
      - By Love — Love will be awakened.
8. **2T Ch.29 "The Sufferings of Christ"** (15 pgs.) — Ends with "*Here is love that no language can express. It passes knowledge. Great is the mystery of godliness. Our souls should be enlivened, elevated, and enraptured with the theme of the love of the Father and the Son to man. The followers of Christ should here learn to reflect in some degree that mysterious love preparatory to joining all the redeemed in ascribing "blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, ... unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever."*"
- This is why Paul said in **Galatians 6:14** — *But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*
  - **1 Corinthians 2:2** — *For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.*
9. **Philippians 2:5-8** — *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*