



The Nature of Real Church: Love

Greg Wendschlag June 26, 2022

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” Gal. 5:22-23

“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. ¹⁴For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. ¹⁶So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. ¹⁷For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. ²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

God is not asking us to DO these things; He saved us to BECOME these things.

The Nature of Love

I John 4:7-21

1. God is love.
2. God loved us first, therefore we love others.
3. You can't say you love God and hate another at the same time.
4. Love is defined by action.

What does Love look like?

1. Love obeys.

“As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” John 15:9-12

2. Love gives.

“For God so loved the world He gave His one and only Son...” John 3:16

“Greater love has no one that this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13

3. Love serves.

“Having love His own who were in the world, He now showed them the full extent of His love.” John 13:1

4. Love disciplines. Heb. 12:6

“My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son. Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons.” Heb. 12:5-7

“Love never fails.” 1 Cor. 13:8