

***“Love That Lasts!”***  
***1 Peter 1:22-25***

**Introduction:**

1. There Are Some Things That Are Very Powerful In This World!
  - Money Is Powerful!
    - If You Have A Lot Of Money, You Can Buy A Lot Of Things!
      - You Can Buy Things – Like A Nice House Or Car! - You Can Buy Influence – On Tuesday, You Could Have Met The President At A Fundraiser In NYC For Just \$15,200 Per Person!
      - You Can Even Buy Friends – At Least For Awhile!
      - But, As We’ve Seen & Learned – You Can’t Buy Happiness!
    - There Is A Limit To The Power Of Money!
  - People Are Powerful!
    - A Large Group Of People Can:
      - Win Elections! At Least In A Democracy!
      - Win Opinions! If The Majority Of People Believe Something, Then It “Becomes” The Truth, According To The World’s Standard! Happened When People Believed The World Was Flat! Happens Today When People Believe The World Evolved!
      - Even Win Wars!
      - But You Can’t Win Everything With People!
    - There Is A Limit To The Power Of People!
  - Love Is Powerful!
    - More Powerful Than Both Money & People!
    - There Is No Limit To The Power Of Love!
    - 1 Corinthians 13:8, 13 - “Charity Never Fails!” / “And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity!”
2. Getting Back To 1 Peter:
  - Remember That Peter Is Explaining How To Deal With Suffering!
    - That You Are Going Through Right Now – Or Will Go Through!
  - And The Best Way To Deal With Suffering Is:
    - To Not Look In! To Yourself & Your Circumstances!
      - No Matter How Difficult They May Be!
    - But: To Look Up! To The Lord!
      - Your Relationship With God Is Of The Highest Importance! Especially When Tempted To Sin When Suffering! Happens A Lot! Job! Jesus!
    - Now: Look Out! To Others!
      - You Have Another Responsibility:
3. 1:22b - “See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently!”
  - This Is One Of The Keys To Surviving Suffering As A Christian!
  - There Is A Duty To Love Here!
    - We Are Commanded To Love One Another!
      - Not A Suggestion! But A Duty!
    - Not A Feeling, But A Choice!
      - A Godly, Christ-Like Love! Agape!
    - John 13:34-35 - “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. / By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another!”
  - There Is A Direction Of Love Here!
    - “One Another!”
    - Yes, We Are To Love Our Families / Our Friends / Our Neighbors / Even Our Enemies! But We Are Specifically Called To Love “One Another” As Christians & As A Church! Why? I Think We All Know Why! So Easy To Worship Together / Pray Together / Even Serve Together / But Not Love One Another! Read Of A Church Split Recently!
  - There Is A Depth Of Love Here!

- “Out Of A Pure Heart!”
- Sincere & Without Any Impure Motives / Desires!
- 1 Timothy 1:5 - “Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned!”
- There Is A Drive In Love Here!
  - “Fervently!”
  - Our Love For One Another Is To Be Passionate / Fervent / Earnest / And Active!
    - **IE:** “Fervent” - Something Stretched Out To The Limit! “Love At Full Capacity!” (Hiebert)
  - 1 Peter 4:8 - “And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins!”
    - Why Do We So Easily Offend Each Other?
    - Why Are We So Easily Offended By Each Other?
    - In The Church? We Don’t Have A “Fervent Love!”
- This Command To Love Is Key!
  - In Fact, Love Is The Birthmark Of A Christian!
  - “Never Forget That, In God’s Family, Love Is The Principal Thing!” (John Lillie)
- 4. Naturally, Some Questions Come To Mind When We Here This Command!
  - Peter Has Already Answered These Questions – And Reminds Us That God Has Called Us All To A Life Of Love!

\* Why Should We Love One Another? Because Of:

**1. *The Love Experienced By Me!***

- 1:22a - “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren!”
  - You Have Experienced God’s Great Love To You! Now, You Are To Share His Great Love With One Another!”
  - When Saved – What Do You Experience?
- The Purification Of God’s Love!
  - “Purified Your Souls!”
  - God Is More Concerned With Your Soul Than Your Situation! And He Has Provided For You: “A Fountain – For Sin And For Uncleaness!” (Zechariah 13:1)
  - When You Go To This Fountain – Your Soul Has Been Made Pure!
    - This Is Love! 1 John 4:10-11 - “Herein is love, not that he loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins! / Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another!”
  - But, We’ve Experienced So Much More!
- The Persuasion Of God’s Love!
  - “In Obeying The Truth!”
  - This Is How We Experience God’s Love!
    - We Obey His Truth – The Gospel!
  - This Is They Only Way To Become Pure In Heart / Soul!
    - Praise The Lord!
    - “No Other Truth — Avails To The Cleansing Of The Soul!” (John Lillie)
  - **IE:** Is Education Really The Answer? No! Obedience To The Gospel! And Then Love!
- The Power Of God’s Love!
  - “Through The Spirit!” (Some Translations Omit - Retain)
  - The Only Way We Could Obey & Believe Is “Through The Spirit” Of God!
    - He Came To Us! Convicted Us! Called Us! Changed Us!
  - Now We Must Bear The “Fruit Of The Spirit!”
    - The First In The List Is Love! (Galatians 5:22)
- The Purpose Of God’s Love!
  - “Unto Unfeigned Love Of The Brethren!”
  - God Saved You To Become A Part Of A Greater Family!
    - His Church! The Family Of God!

- And To Have A “Brother Love” For Each Other!
  - “Philadelphia” - City Of Brotherly Shove / Love!
  - “Unfeigned” - Without Hypocrisy! Not “Masked!”
- Because Of The Love Of God That You Have Experienced Yourself!
  - “See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently!”

\* How Can We Love One Another? Through:

**2. *The Love Enabled In Me!***

- 1:23 - “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever!”
  - To Obey This Command To Love Is Hard – Even Impossible – Without The Help Of God!
    - Guess What! He Gives His Help! In Fact, He Enables / Empowers To Love!
- Through The New Change Of Your Love!
  - “Being Born Again!”
  - God Has Changed You – From The Inside-Out – To Love!
    - To Be Born Anew / Regenerated!
  - Song - “There’s Been A Great Change Since I’ve Been Born Again!” - There Will Be! Especially In Your Love!
    - God Enables Us To Love – Through His Change!
- Through The New Character Of Your Love!
  - “Not Of Corruptible Seed, But Of Incorruptible!”
  - To Be “Born” Requires A “Seed!”
    - For Children - The Seed Of The Father!
    - For Flowers - The Seed Of The Plant!
    - These Seeds Are Mortal & Will Pass Away!
  - The Seed That Saves – The Gospel – Is “Incorruptible!”
    - Brings Love That Lasts!
  - God Enables Us To Love – Through His Character!
- Through The New Cause Of Your Love!
  - “By The Word Of God!”
  - God’s Word Is The Seed Of Our Salvation!
    - Luke 8:11 - “The Seed Is The Word Of God!” (Parable Of The Sower)
  - God Enables Us To Love – Through His Word!
- Through The New Condition Of Your Love!
  - “Which Liveth & Abideth Forever!”
  - Talking About The “Word Of God!”
    - But Also About Your Life / Love!
    - They Will Live & Last Forever! Because:
  - The Nature Of The Seed Is The Nature Of The Sprout!
    - 1 John 4:7 - “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God!”
- Because Of The Love Of God That Has Enabled You!
  - “See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently!”

\* Who Should I Live? Should Be Seen In:

**3. *The Love Expressed By Me!***

- 1:24 - “For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away!”
- To Further Show The Power Of God’s Word, Peter Quotes From Isaiah 40:6-8!
  - But This Shows Who Else Needs Your Love!
    - “All Flesh!” — “ALL Flesh!”
  - We Must Love One Another!
    - But, It Must Not End There! We Must Share The Love With Others, So That They Can Become A Part Of This Great Family Too!
  - We Must Express Our Love To “All Flesh!” Because Of:

- The Defect Of All Flesh!
  - “All Flesh Is As Grass, And All The Glory Of Man As The Flower Of The Grass!”
  - Man Is Frail!
    - Like Individual Blades Of Grass! Easily Trampled / Cut / Picked / Even Choked By Weeds! Our Life!
  - Man Will Fail!
    - What You “Glory” In – Take Pride In – Will Fail!
    - It Is Like The Small Flower Of Grass!
  - This Is Why People Need Something That Will Last!
    - Like The Love Of God That Comes Through His Word & Is Shared By His People!
- The Destruction Of All Flesh!
  - “The Grass Withereth And The Flower Thereof Falleth Away!”
  - Both Verbs Describe “What Has Actually Happened, And May Be Expected To Occur Again!” (Alexander)
    - Cemeteries!
  - “Wither” - To Shivel & Dry Up! IE: Grass Clips!
    - No Spiritual Life In Man!
    - But God’s Love Brings Man Back To Life!
  - “Falleth Away” - To Fall Powerless To The Ground!
    - No Spiritual Hope In Man!
    - This Is Why Love Is So Important! And Has Been Given Through:
- The Deliverance For All Flesh!
  - 1:25 - “But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you!”
  - The Word Of The Lord Is The Word Of Love! And:
    - God’s Love Is Living!
    - God’s Love Will Last!
    - God’s Love Liberates!
      - It Is The Gospel!
  - The Message Of God’s Love:
    - Was Preached To You!
    - Now, You Need To Share It With Others!
- And Since The Love Of God Is Meant To Be Expressed By You!
  - “See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently!”

**Conclusion:**

1. Do You Have This Kind Of Love?
  - For Your Church? For Other Christians?
2. Remember:
  - Love Is The Birthmark Of A Christian!
  - And Is One Of The Keys To Surviving Suffering As A Christian!
    - As You Focus On Others – Your Troubles Will Seem To Fade Away!
3. This Is The Power Of Love!
  - “See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently!”

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