

Season of Hope – Love the Heart of Hope

Dr. John Carmichael

[Jhn 3:16 NASB95] 16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

[Rom 5:5 NASB95] 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

[1Co 13:13 NASB95] 13 But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

- Christmas is a celebration of hope because God gave us His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. He did that because He loves us.
- In Romans, Paul connects our Biblical hope to the love of God being poured out.
- We have looked at hope and faith, now its time to look at love.

How are to interact with love?

Love is to be received and then given.

I. Love must be received.

- a. The first step is to receive God's love. [1Jo 4:19 NASB95] 19 We love, because He first loved us.
- b. Knowing/experiencing the boundless love of God is not automatic. [Eph 3:14-19 NASB95] 14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; [and] that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.
 - i. [Zep 3:17 NASB95] 17 "The LORD your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.
- c. The Holy Spirit helps us to receive this love of God. [Rom 5:5-8 NASB95] 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. 6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- d. Ask God to help you receive the love of God by the Holy Spirit.

II. Love needs to be given.

- a. The second step love. [1Jo 4:19 NASB95] 19 We love, because He first loved us.
- b. The greatest and second greatest commandments.
 - i. [Mar 12:29-31 NASB95] 29 Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; 30 AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' 31 "The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

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- ii. Three aspects of love in this verse
 1. To God, first and foremost. [Jhn 14:15 NASB95] 15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.
 2. To others. We are called to love others.
 3. To self. Within appropriate boundaries, there is a holy love toward ourselves as ones who are loved by God.
 - c. Give love to God and humans.
- **God wants us to receive His love which will allow us to give love to Him, first and foremost, and then to others as we appropriately love ourselves.**