

Extreme Faith (Part 5)

Saturday, September 11, 2022

In our series on we have seen that Extreme Faith includes...

EXTREME COMMITMENT
EXTREME TRUST
EXTREME GIVING
EXTREME RIGHTEOUSNESS

Today's extreme is seen in the very nature of God Himself.

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 13:34-35

34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (3 times in these two verse we are told to love one another - think it might be important?)

1 John 4:7-12

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.

EXTREME LOVE

1. Is EXEMPLIFIED by God's Extreme Love for Us

Notice where the emphasis is in these verses.

- God SO LOVED
- He GAVE
- As I HAVE LOVED you

- LOVE COMES FROM GOD
- GOD IS LOVE
- He LOVED US (FIRST)
- He SENT His Son as an atoning SACRIFICE
- Since God SO LOVED us

It is indescribable, incomprehensible, it is unimaginable, It is unconditional, It pursues, it is relentless, it is never ending, it is all consuming, it is filled with grace, mercy and forgiveness, It gives ALL,

Paul prayed that the Ephesian Believers would be able to comprehend the vastness and completeness of God's incredible love

Ephesians 3:16-19

16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (It goes in all directions)



Until we grasp the Love of God, we will never be able to fulfill His command to Love

2. Is COMMANDED of our Love for God, for our Neighbors, and even for our Enemies

Again let us give our attention to the emphasis of our Key Texts...

- A New COMMAND
- LOVE ONE ANOTHER (Three times in two verses - You think it might be important)
- Everyone will KNOW you are my disciples (It reveals Christ and it identifies our relationship with Him)
- John tells us twice in his passage that we are to LOVE ONE ANOTHER and if we don't then we don't really know God

In another place John writes...

1 John 2:9-11

9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. 10 Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. 11 But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

So let's talk about this EXTREME LOVE that is EXEMPLIFIED by God's love for us and to which we have been COMMANDED

- Gives Completely

Mark 12:29-31

29 "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 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: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Luke 6:27-36

27 "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from

them. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

32 “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. 35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

- Acts Compassionately

Luke 10:25-37

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

26 “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

27 He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

28 “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

30 In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came

where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Galatians 6:2 (ESV)

2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

1 John 3:17-18

17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

- Forgives Repeatedly

Luke 17:3-5

3 So watch yourselves.

"If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. 4 Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them."

5 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

Matthew 18:21-22

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

22 Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Jesus followed up his answer with the parable of the Unmerciful Servant

Greek *ten thousand talents*; a talent was worth about 20 years of a day laborer’s wages.

Greek *a hundred denarii*; a denarius was the usual daily wage of a day laborer (see 20:2).

Matthew 18:32-35

32 “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

- Expresses Itself Continually

1 Corinthians 13:1-8

13 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. (We can express many things but if we are not expressing love with our words and actions we aren't accomplishing anything)

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. (These are simply expressions of love)

8 Love never fails.

It never quits expressing itself

If God's word tells us how much he loves us and his actions towards us shows us how much he loves us, over and over again; don't you think we should express our love in like manner to God, to others and even to our enemies

- **Sacrifices Willingly**

1 John 3:16-18

16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

John 15:13-14

13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command.