

PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY: LET'S LOVE EACH OTHER DEARLY

Houses of Light Church • March 26-27 2022 • Pastor Netz Gómez

1 Pet. 1:22-25

"Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you."

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Peter spoke to us in the previous verses about holy behavior that follows from our identity and relationship with our Heavenly Father who is holy (**1:14-16**). And precisely because He judges or evaluates us justly, this produces in us a reverent fear during our journey through this world (**1:17**). Our faith is a miracle that is the product of the resurrection of Jesus to the point that our hope is placed in God (**1:21**).

II. HOW ARE WE PURIFIED TO LOVE?

- A. ***"Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other"*** When Peter speaks of loving one another, we understand that this love from a pure heart comes from purified souls, so the question is where does the soul become purified? **and the answer that Peter gives us is when we obey the truth.**
- B. Peter is not talking about a legalistic obedience that forces us to get rid of sin but rather about a trust and hope in the gospel that leads us to do what he tells us. **Then you are purified by your faith in the gospel and the result is love that overflows towards those around you.**

Acts. 15:9 *"[God] ...he purified their hearts by faith."*

1 Jn. 4:7b *"...Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God."*

- C. **Faith in the gospel produces love.** The Purification of the soul and being born again (v.23) are describing the same event from different angles. So the truth that Peter is talking about here is the good news of the gospel and **the way we obey the good news is by believing and trusting in Christ.**

1 Tim. 1:5 *"The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."*

- D. **Faith has a sanctifying and purifying effect by casting out false things that we rely on that are not of God and unites us to Christ who is our purity.**

III. CALLED TO LOVE DEARLY FROM A PURE HEART

- A. **v.22b** *"love one another deeply, from the heart"* as a result of believing in the gospel our hearts are pure and so our love for each other is also pure. **Peter urges us to exercise this love that has been born in our hearts from the depths of our**

being for our brothers and sisters in Christ. We don't need to love each other like brothers; we can sincerely love each other because we really are brothers.

- B. It is not about pretending that we love someone and putting up with not telling them how badly we like them and how much they annoy us. **To love without pretending we need to avoid speaking ill of them.** We must change our internal narrative. **Not because that person has no flaws but because you have learned to distinguish the flaws of someone else for God.**

Rom. 12:9 *"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good."*

1. **Genuine love for others is not just saying: I love my family, etc. but to love them as God commands us to do and as they need to be loved.** Many of us may have our own concepts of love but the Holy Spirit through Paul tells us how to genuinely love.
2. ***"Hate what is evil; cling to what is good."*** The opposite of hating what is evil in the context of genuinely loving is holding on to the good that God speaks about our loved ones, instead of keeping us expecting the worst from them. Without realizing it, we can be clinging to everything bad that someone is or has done, but God is not like that with us. Holding on to the good means that we are no longer going to be repeating the bad things they have done or making their mistakes bigger. **We must learn to genuinely forgive ourselves otherwise we end up hating ourselves.**
3. **We must cling to everything that God has promised to do in others with his power, His mercy and his grace, speaking about them what God speaks.**

1 Ped. 4:11a *"f anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God..."*

4. We can pray: 'Holy Spirit let me see what You see and let me feel what You feel when you see this person. (my partner, my father, mother, brother, etc.)' What does God say about those around you?

Prov. 31:12, 25-26 *"She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life... 25 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. 26 She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue."*

Psal. 144:12 *"Then our sons in their youth will be like well-nurtured plants, and our daughters will be like pillars carved to adorn a palace"*

Joel 2:28 *"... I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy..."*

- C. **With whom do we agree?** The best we can do is agree with God and what his word says; every morning in our secret place or prayer room, to be able to declare about our sons and daughters, mothers and spouses what it is saying about them, to prophesy life and the truths of God.
- D. **There is no doubt that there are spiritual forces of the enemy operating and attacking our children and parents, but the power of God becomes available when we agree with God in our conversations and in prayer.**

- E. Sometimes we can spend a lot of time disconnected from Jesus and too connected with our emotions and pressures to the point that most of the time we are tired and frustrated but Jesus tells us: 'today, give me your frustrations. I am the one who can give you peace; I am the one who can comfort you; I know what is happening to you and I know your needs, come before Me, learn from Me'
- F. When we feel frustrated we can say things that agree with what the enemy says, not with what God says, but God's Holy Spirit can give us self-control to respond correctly and not hurt our own. Even in our worst moments we can talk to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to produce in us the fruit of self-control and temperance so that we do not respond with words of offense and condemnation.
- G. It is important to realize how transcendent are the words that we declare to each other. Identities and destinations are made or destroyed by the statements we make.

Prov. 18:21 "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit."

IV. THE TWO SEEDS THAT GAVE BIRTH TO US

- A. **v.23 *"For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God."*** A human seed produced our natural birth and a living and permanent seed that is the Word of God, that is, the good news of the gospel produced the new birth (1:3)
- B. The resurrection is the historical event that produced the new birth, but the Word that abides is the kind of hope that gives rise to constant love. **This "seed" shares the character of the Source with him.** God comes to you powerfully and makes a change in you through the Word, now this seed that has come to me, that has made me be born again, does not perish therefore I will not perish either so I have hope.
- C. **v.24-25 *"All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you"*** The quote that Peter mentions is Isa. 40:6-8, contrasts the transient character of nature (Jas. 1:10-11) with the eternity of God's Word. Everything natural eventually dies and disappears, which is the opposite of the living and permanent Word of God..
Mat. 24:35 *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."*
- D. The seed lives and remains, and so do those to whom it gives new life. ***That is the word that has been preached to us specifically the gospel.*** Every human being in his carnal nature is like the grass and all the glory of him, things like his productivity, creativity, etc. they are just like flowers they are beautiful but today you see them and tomorrow they are gone "but" the Word of God remains forever. The Spirit through the Word makes us be born again in a way that we have an invincible hope that allows us to continue loving.

Rom. 5:5 "And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

Rom. 15:13 *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

V. CONCLUSION

- A. In short, loving one another flows from the hope that comes from the new birth, **so loving one another is rooted precisely in hope. If we feel discouraged, only worried about ourselves, or anxious about our future, we don't have the resources to love other people. But if our hope is sure and our future is certain because we have a satisfying heritage then we are the freest of all and we will be the ones we love best because we know that the best is yet to come.**

VI. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- 1. According to this text, how are we purified to love others?**
- 2. How can you love without hypocrisy?**
- 3. What role does hope play in having genuine love?**

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- INNER HEALING RETREAT FOR MEN April 29-30 there will be English translation (You can register in the Bookstore or online).**
- YARD SALE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE MISSIONARY TRIP TO THE ORPHANAGE: Saturday, April 9 at 9:00 a.m. (Please bring clothing and items in good condition that we can sell during services or to the office)**
- SCHOOL CLASSES FOR PARENTS AND FOR CHILDREN PRESENTATION Begin March 30 at 7:00 p.m. (Please register in the Information booth).**
- BREAKFAST TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE HOUSE OF PRAYER: Saturday, April 23 at 9:00 a.m. All who wish to support are invited. In worship we will have Niko Gaggero from Upperroom. (Please register at the entrance table).**