

Series: The Authentic Life
Message: Authentic Love: Part Two
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:8-13 (NASB)
Teacher: Randy Pope
Dates: 15/16 September 2018

1. God's Thoughts On Authentic Love

Last Week

1) The Priority of Love. vs 1-3

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

¹ If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

² If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

³ And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

2) The Description of Love. vs 4-7

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant,

⁵ does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered,

⁶ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;

⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

This Week:

3) The Permanence Of Love. vs 8-13

1 Corinthians 13:8

⁸ Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away.

1 Corinthians 13:9-10

⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part;

¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.

1 Corinthians 13:11

¹¹When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.

1 Corinthians 13:12

¹²For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

1 Corinthians 13:13

¹³But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

2. The Difference Between Authentic And Inauthentic Love.

Last Week:

- 1) Inauthentic Love Is A Natural Emotion While Authentic Love Is A Supernatural Fruit.

Fenelon

Such souls only stop appropriating their own virtues when they stop seeing them, and when everything seems to escape them. Then they cry out, like St. Peter when he was sinking in the water, "Save us, Lord; we perish!" They are finding nothing more in themselves. Everything fails them. There is nothing in their hearts but condemnation, horror and hatred of themselves, sacrifice and abandon. In losing thus that self-centered Pharisaic righteousness, they enter into the true righteousness of Jesus Christ, which they hardly consider their own.

Moreover, these souls too dependent on joyful experience and on inner peace, are in danger of losing all in the first storm to arise. They cling only to the gift they can feel. When the felt gift is withdrawn, all falls without support. They are discouraged as soon as God tries them. They make no difference between the experience of joy and God. Thus it comes that, when this joy escapes, they

decide that God is abandoning them. They are blind who give up prayer....A soul which sees the dry bread of tribulation, which finds itself empty of all good, which constantly sees its poverty, its unworthiness and its corruption, which never stops seeking for God...is far above a soul which wants to see its perfection, which worries lest it lose sight of it, and which wants God always to assure it by new endearments.

Fenelon

Pure love is only in singleness of will. It is a love which loves without feeling as pure as faith believes without seeing. The more the action is purely intellectual and spiritual, the more it is not only reality but the very perfection for which God asks. Indeed true virtue and pure love do not exist except in the will alone. If the imagination wanders, if the thoughts are carried away, let us not be troubled. Often He takes it away from us to advance us. There is no greater repentance than this state of pure faith without any feeling of support.

This Week:

- 2) Inauthentic Love Is Motivated By Self Interest While Authentic Love Is Motivated By God's Commands.

- 3) Inauthentic Love Is Measured By Feelings While Authentic Love Is Measured By Commitment.

Fenelon

It is not a question of feelings, but of the will. Often our feeling does not depend at all upon ourselves. God takes it away purposely that we may feel our poverty, that we may learn to accept the cross of inner dryness, and that we may undergo the purification of clinging to him without any sensible consolation, and then he restores to us the comfort of warm feelings from time to time out of pity for our weakness.

John 14:21

²¹ "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

1. Admit
2. Appropriate
3. Commit