

7 May 2017

## God's love – Pt 2 – The perfection of God's love.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

### 1. The love of God is shed abroad in the heart of a believer by the Holy Ghost.

"And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Rom.5: 5).

The love of God is not in them that do not believe His words (Jn.5: 42). But for those who believe God's words, and therefore **are** in the body of Christ – the love of God is shed abroad in their hearts by the Holy Ghost. There is no "ifs". "buts" or "maybes" – it takes place when we believe.

### 2. God's love is perfected in a believer when they keep His word (1Jn.2: 5).

"But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him" (1Jn.2: 5).

The love that is shed abroad in a believer's heart is perfected when they keep His word, which complements other scriptures that say "this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments" (1Jn.5: 3). And our verse in 1Jn.2: 5 continues, "hereby know we that we are in him" – When we keep His word. If any man claims to be saved, but desires to disobey God's word because he is under grace, then he should prayerfully examine himself "whether ye be in the faith" (2Cor.13: 5), whether he yields to sin unto death, "or obedience unto righteousness?" (Rom.6: 16).

### 3. God's love is perfected in a believer when they love their brethren (1Jn.4: 12).

"No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us" (1Jn.4: 12).

The whole "law is fulfilled in one word...love they neighbour as thyself" (Gal.5: 14). When we love our brethren we keep God's word and He dwells in us, and His love is made perfect. And God's perfect love is sacrificial. "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (1Jn.3: 16). it is with God's perfect sacrificial love that we are to love our brethren. Hence, when we lay down our life for our brethren God's love is perfected in us.

Additional comments on our three points.

It is in the heart of a man where he believes God, and it is his heart where God sheds His love to the believer through the Holy Ghost the moment the lost sinner believes the gospel. And our 2nd and 3rd points flow from God's love that is now in the saved man's heart – he desires to keep God's word, and love his brethren. When he does so, God's love is perfected in the believer.

Applying the teaching to our life today.

A preacher on Queen St on Friday was told by a young "Vineyard church" goer that he was discouraging his work in giving out invitations to the young lost people to a "Christian" concert because the preacher challenged his explanation on what makes a person a Christian.

Question to think about.

When we criticise a brother who is ignorant of God's words being preserved in the English text of the 1611 Authorised Bible do we perfect the love of God in ourselves?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

No because we are commanded to "edify one another" (1Thes.5: 11), build up our brethren more than ourselves, hence encourage them, not knock them down. And if we are going to admonish our brother because they are overtaken in a fault then we are to do so in meekness and lowliness (Gal.6: 1), hence we encourage them. God's love in us is perfected when we keep his commandments, and love our brethren, with Christ's sacrificial love. Amen!