

God Is What?! (His Attributes)

Love, He Is (Part 2)

- Attributes are not something God has, it is something that God **is**.
- This statement tells us if we don't have the right concept of who God is, you will make **mistakes**.
- How you make choices depends on the way you **see** God.

* God's attributes are His distinct **character** qualities of who and what He is.

The bottom line goal of this series was to introduce and cement in you, God:

- Who you believe He is, is what you will **conceive** in your heart and **become**.

So God not only loves you, He is **love** - I took you to 1 John 4:7-12

1 John 4:7-12

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

1 John 4:17-21

¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us. ²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also.

1. We found in order to love someone, you must **know** God – because God is love and the only way to really love is to **know personally** love – who is **God**.

A. Love is a **choice**.

- Emotions are to **follow** your will.
- Love is a **commandment** and we need to think this out.

How could God command us to love if it was just an emotion?

My second point:

B. Love is **unselfish**.

1 Corinthians 13:1-8:

Verses 1-3: Are the **importance** of love

Verses 4-8: Are the **definition** of love

1 Corinthians 13:1-2

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ²And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

Speaks of a believer or a good one in fact:

- A guy who speaks with a tongue of men or **angels**.
- A guy who has a gift of **prophecy** and **understands** all mysteries.
- He has all faith so he can move **mountains**.

Listen closely:

2. But if he has no love, he is **nothing**.

1 Corinthians 13:3

³And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

- He can do amazing things and it profits him **nothing**.

Here is the definition of love:

Verse 4:

- Love suffers **long**.
- Love is **kind**.
- Love does not **envy**.
- Love does not **parade itself**.
- Love is not **puffed up**.

Verse 5:

- Love doesn't behave **rudely**.
- Love does not seek its own (or not **selfish**)
- Love is not **provoked**.
- Love seeks no **evil**.

Verse 6a:

- Love does not rejoice in iniquity (or doesn't **remember** bad things)

This is what love does:

Verse 6b:

- Rejoices in the **truth**.

Verse 7:

- Love **bears** all things.
- Love **believes** all things.
- Love **hopes** all things.
- Love **endures** all things.

Verse 8:

- Love **never** fails.
3. The very nature of God is to **give** and not to **take**.

John 3:16

¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

4. Loving is **giving**.

John 15:13

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

- So we are commanded to love the Lord and to love others.

How do I do that?

Answer: **Lay down** my life for the Lord and for others.

I cannot lay down my life for others until I lay down my life for **the Lord**.

This sounds a little mixed up, but here it goes:

5. I can't lay down my life for the Lord until I lay down **my life**.

Here is the definition of laying down your life: **Die**

- I cannot do all this until I just **die** – to **self**.
 - * The reason why there are so many problems in the church is...
 - We are helping **live** people, not **dead** people.
 - * The reason marriage counseling is difficult is because there are two **live** people, not **dead** people.

If people would get out of the way of God's plan by dying, many problems would be **settled**.

Dying is giving up your **rights**.

Galatians 2:20

²⁰I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Mark 10:28-31

²⁸Then Peter began to say to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You." ²⁹So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, ³⁰who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life. ³¹But many *who are* first will be last, and the last first."

If I let go of my right to be happy, God will see to it I will have happy return to me a **hundred-fold**.

- If you lay down your life and your wife lays down her life, you both **died** – you will fall **madly** in love.

The third thing about love:

C. Love is **unconditional**.

- Love has no **conditions**.
- God loved you **before** you loved Him.

Get this church:

- God loved you before you **performed**.

6. Unconditional love is the **healthiest** thing in the world.

* Conditional love is so **unhealthy**.

What does this tell us about God?

Answer: Your Heavenly Father will **always** love you.

Romans 8:35-39

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Why can nothing separate us from the love of God?

Answer: God, who is love, is **unconditional**.

7. You were created as a **target** for God's love; He created you because He **wanted** you.

8. The problem - some have a problem **giving** love is because they have a problem **receiving** love.

1 Peter 4:8

⁸ And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

Verse 8 tells us love needs a **recipient** – love must love.

Here is the last thing – love has 3 aspects:

- **Commitment** – choice, unselfish, unconditional
- **Passion** – the world starts with passion by passing commitment trying to have intimacy.
- **Intimacy**

What do you do if you have commitment, but no passion?

Build **intimacy**.

Commitment plus **intimacy** produces passion.

Well – how do you build intimacy?

Heart to heart communication:

- Intimacy with **God**
- Intimacy with **friends**

Most men do not know how to do this – ladies realize that.

Mothers, help your sons to live this way.

Wives – if your husband came from the factory defective of intimacy, help them **talk**.

There is hope in any area of your life because:

- God is **love**.