

Where's Your Heart At?

Part 2 - Love

God's word carries the authority and transformative power of His LOVE!

Heart Health

If found early enough, lifestyle changes may be enough... But if left unchecked, not dealt with, surgery is required! Just as our arteries carry oxygenated blood throughout our body – the very source of sustained life; His love is our source of life, sustaining the spiritual body!

- + **Where's your heart at lately?**
- + **Is love flowing freely in and through you to the rest of the body?**

This Extravagant Love – God is love!

When it comes to our God who is abounding in Love, we read of

- + His unfailing love
- + His loving kindness
- + His great love, the completion of our salvation
- + His love standing firm
- + His everlasting love

In the Old Testament alone we are reminded 41 times that God is Good, and his faithful love endures forever!

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

1 John 4:8, 16

Romans 5:8

Ephesians 2:4-5

Isaiah 61:1

Ezekiel 36:26

What causes spiritual blockages

What causes blockages that prevent God's love flowing?

How do we find them? treat them? remove them? prevent them?

"If we want God's love to transform the world, then we must first let it transform us!" Leif Hetland

1. Just a veneer – Superficial Knowledge vs. Deep Abiding

1 John 4:16

"What comes into our minds when we think about God, is the most important thing about us!" A.W Tozer

1 John 4:18

If we are really going to love Him, honour the gift of Christ's life on the cross, we are really going to have to trust Him as our Lord, Saviour and Friend.

John 15:12-15

- + **Where's your heart at?**
- + **Are you abiding deeply, at a heart level with in Him or have you settled for head knowledge?**
- + **Do we allow the truth of His Word to declare His nature of LOVE?**

2. Remember your first love?

Jesus, Simon Peter and the miracle catch!

Luke 5:4-11

The letter to the Church in Ephesus

Revelation 2:2-5

Our efforts needed to spring out from the overflow of our love for Jesus, evident in their love for one another.

- + **Where's your heart at?**
- + **Are you invested in religious acts without a relationship of love at the centre?**
- + **Have you forgotten what it is to have eyes only for Jesus, leave everything to follow him?**

3. Offense & Unforgiveness

Galatians 2:20

John 1:12

1 John 3:10

- + Where's your heart at?
- + Where's your identity found?

(4) Disobedience

John 14:15, 21

The "IF" is in response to people who have said they loved Him...
"IF" you love me, you will obey me!

- + Where's your heart at?
- + Are you looking for comfortable or control –
- + or are you seeking to obey and see?

(5) Complacency – Not loving one another

The phrase 'one another' appears over 100 times in the New Testament, with more than 59 of those occurrences specific commands teaching us how (and how not) to relate to one another.

Romans 12:10 (NLT)

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)

John 13:35 (NIV)

The world will know and believe you are my disciples because of the bonds between 'one another'!

- + Where's your heart at?
- + Are your relationships with one another and others, an overflow of the love you have encountered from time in the secret place with Him?

"If the presence of God and His love is in the Church, the Church will draw the world in. If the presence of God and His love is not in the Church, the world will draw the Church out." Charles Finney

1 John 4:19

Isaiah 53:5

John 15:13

Declarations:

Jesus was punished, so that I would be forgiven

Jesus was wounded, so that I would be healed

Jesus died my death, so that I may share His life

Jesus endured my poverty, so that I might enjoy His abundance

Jesus became an orphan, so that I would become a beloved son or daughter

Jesus was separated from perfect love, so that I would be restored back again to perfect love.

Personal Application

Q1. When was the last time you gave yourself a heart check up?

Q2. Have you ever been prompted to show God's love to someone and then didn't because of fear? What could you do differently next time?

Q3. Do you have desires that distract you from pursuing a deep love relationship with God?

Q4. How do you think your life would look different if you met face to face with Jesus every day?

Q5. What do you expect God's love to look like as it begins to transform your life?

Q6. What are you going to do to ensure that your heart is always open to the love God has for others, and His desire that we not only love him but one another?

Prayer

Jesus, help me to see the world as you did when you were here.

Help my heart Lord, not be overwhelmed, but inspired by what I see.

Let your love empower me to be your light in the darkness.

Expose the fears that have held me back from showing your love to others.

Show me how to release your goodness into the earth

by the authority of your love.

Thank you for commissioning us with your authority.

Show me the tools you've given me to do your will. Amen.