

THE POWER OF LOVE

Part 6 - Love Cares

The Agape Love of God

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:16-17 (ESV)

'So that' people would not perish

ETERNITY – Not losing sight

We are a people who care about people's salvation!

2 Corinthians 5:1-21 (ESV)

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, 3 if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. 4 For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

6 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. 12 We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. 13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. 14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling[the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Our Faith

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not yet seen. Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)

What are we living for?

The largest study on 'regret' – what matters?

Agape love looks for a way!

The world says NO!

Who we are:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (ESV)

Discussion Questions

1. What does your faith profess? What do you truly believe? What are you 'assured' and 'convicted' of (Hebrews 11:1) as a result?
2. Does 'Eternity' feature in how you approach this life? Why/Why not?
3. Is there a disconnect between what we believe and how we then see both our life and those who walk by us?
4. What do you think it looks like to 'will the unconditional good' for another person? What's the ultimate thing you could do? What part do you play?
5. What activities/priorities would change in your life right now if you were to live connected to heaven and not for what is temporary? (Let's make it happen!)
6. Are you spectating the path of others? Is this who you are or has the world shaped you?
7. "It's my food to do the will of Him who sent me." (John 4:34) What do you think of this verse as it relates to your own life and faith? Have you ever shared Jesus with someone? How did it feel? Do you think you're missing 'food' by not sharing?
8. What lies have you been believing that you can replace with the truth from today on? Today is a great day to change your life!

'Love cares to share!'