

Take Another Look at Christmas Pt 5: Authentic Love

I. God Is Light.

This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in Him at all. 1 John 1:5 (NLT)

A. Jesus' followers are to live in the light.

But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7 (NLT)

B. Following Jesus means there is no darkness in my life.

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." John 8:12 (NLT)

C. We are to be bearers of the light.

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father." Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT)

II. God Is Love.

God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. 1 John 4:16b (NLT)

A. Jesus came as the light of God to demonstrate the love of God.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NIV)

- Jesus was sent here to carry out the Father's mission of love.

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. John 3:17 (NIV)

B. Christmas should be saturated in light and love.

III. What Jesus Said about Love:

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35 (NIV)

- A. This is the only new command Jesus gave His followers.
- B. AGAPEO –loving others the way God loves us.

IV. Paul Writes about Love in Romans 12.

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Romans 12:9-10 (NIV)

- A. We are to love each other authentically.

Love must be sincere.

Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form, He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Philippians 2:6-8 (NLT)

Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

- B. We are to love each other devotedly.

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.

PHILADELPHIA

- C. We are to love each other honorably.

Honor one another above yourselves.

TIME – esteem others

V. God Sent His Son at Christmas to Show Us This Kind of Love.

- A. He showed us what He wants to give us: A love relationship with Him.

For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to become like His Son, so that His Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. Romans 8:29 (NLT)

- B. He gave us something no one can take away.

No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:39 (NLT)

- C. He gave us something to give away.

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are His dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered Himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God. Ephesians 5:1-2 (NLT)

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)