

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

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THERE ARE 5 STAGES TO GROWING IN LOVE

Understanding God's Love for His People

The foundational premise in this teaching series is that God loves us with the same intensity that God loves God (Jn. 15:9; 17:23).

The measure of God's love for us is the way God loves within the Trinity. This quality of love is foundational to life in God's kingdom. It is the ultimate reality in the kingdom. Jesus called us to abide in love—to continually live in and stay focused on it.

9“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.” (Jn. 15:9)

23“...that the world may know that You [the Father]...loved them as You have loved Me.” (Jn. 17:23)

The love burning in God's heart has at least 5 expressions that are deeply interrelated. Each of these expressions represent the 5 stages of how a believer can grow in love. We seek to understand and walk in all 5 stages simultaneously since they are revealed and imparted to us by the Spirit.

1. God's love for God: Each person in the Trinity intensely loves the others with all their heart.
2. God's love for His people: He loves His people with all of His heart, mind, and strength.
3. Our love for God: God's very own love is imparted to His people by the Spirit (Rom. 5:5).
4. Our love for ourselves: We love ourselves in God's love and for God's sake.
5. Our love for others: We love others in the overflow of experiencing God's love (1 Jn. 4:19).

Thus, the command to love God with all our heart does not begin with us. It is one expression of the ultimate reality of the kingdom that existed long before the creation of the world, namely God's heart that burned with perfect love within the fellowship of the three persons of the Trinity.

The reality...many have not experienced the love of God! The love of God is in Jesus Christ! The love of God is “shed” in our heart... The love of God is a revelation of God... it happens supernaturally... It's poured out... it is given... Unless we experience His love we can't have love... if we don't, we can't give what we don't have....

The world without Christ is bankrupt of love...