

Remnant Life Church  
January 12, 2014  
“At The Core: Love”  
Galatians 5:14

- We talk about and emphasize love a great deal in this church
  - We focus on it on our web site
  - We take time during every service to greet and love on one another
  - But since there is more than one kind of love what are the differences and why is it important to know them?
- Paul’s letter to the Galatians is the heart-felt writings of a concerned pastor for his church – Why was he concerned?
- **Background**
  - Paul and Barnabas have completed their first missionary journey throughout Asia Minor in the mid 40’s
  - Upon leaving several Jewish leaders began to teach that Paul’s message of salvation could only be fully received and realized if those accepting Jesus fully practiced the Jewish laws
    - Obeying Mosaic law
    - Circumcision
    - All the rights and practices such as the feasts and ritual elements
    - These teachers became known as Judaizers and their teaching “legalism”
  - Paul’s letter was actually written to people living in a region and more specifically a Roman province
  - Founded by the Gauls (today from France) who settled in the area and lent their name to the region as Galatia
  - Paul knew that they had to embrace the love, grace and mercy and God as the only path to salvation not ALONG WITH anything else.
    - *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. Gal. 5:6*
- **Paul uses three primary arguments as he aggressively defends the salvation message**
  - Chapters 1-2 – **The Experiential or Personal Argument**
    - He uses himself as the first example of the power of God’s love
    - The Judaizers were erecting a structure of human achievement to somehow earn or build their worth of salvation
    - Paul’s structure crashed and was destroyed on the road to Damascus
    - He came to fully accept in that experience that it was only God’s love through the death and resurrection of Jesus that had any power to save
  - Chapters 3 -5 – **The Theological Argument**
    - The beginning of the Galatian’s Christian life was the same as it is for us today – believing in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
    - Paul is then asked something that many pastors are asked today – “So does the law fit into the plan of salvation through Jesus?”

- Paul answered them –
  - The law demands perfection so it brings cursing not blessing (3:10)
  - The statement of the OT was that faith not the law brought man into right standing with God (3:11)
  - Jesus' death delivers man from the curse of his own disobedience (3:13)
- Chapters 5-6 - **The Practical Argument**
  - Several times in Paul's writings he brought out his credentials as a way of saying it does not matter what you have done without God's love
  - He repeats here that the freedom we have in Christ is not because of what do or don't do because of God's mercy and grace. (5:1-12)
  - Paul warns not allow God's grace to become an excuse to live in the flesh (5:13)
  - The finally, most important aspect of it all is love
- **Love**
  - God's love and the love that Paul writes of is **Agape** love
  - There is also brotherly love – Phileo
  - There is love expressed in the physical or sexual – Eros
  - God's love defined
    - The nature of agape love is what makes it so deeply satisfying
      - It is selfless given without expectation of return
      - **John 3:16**
      - **I John 4:7** - *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.*
  - **God's love must be always be demonstrated**
    - **Gal. 5:13** – (second half of the verse) - *rather, serve one another humbly in love.*
    - But demonstrated with a humble heart not to be seen or recognized
      - Jesus in **Matthew 23** speaks powerfully to the Pharisees regarding their behavior
      - And again in **Luke 18** when talking about the Pharisee who prayed loudly for everyone to hear and the publican (tax collector) who silently confessed his sin in humility
    - God's love demonstrated is by giving
      - Yourself
      - Time
      - Possessions
        - Even tithing is about love
        - *Although we can give without loving, we cannot love without giving. Giving our money to the Lord proves that we love Him more than the things we could have bought with it.* – author Kent Crockett, Making Today Count for Eternity
    - **Luke 6:30-36** - **READ**
    - Agape is love that gives never takes

▪ **God's love is forgiveness**

- *For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.*

**Gal. 4:15-16**

- When missionaries first began ministering to the Eskimos they discovered that they had no word for "forgiveness". So they had to create one
  - The word they came up with has 24 letters in it
  - "Not-being-able-to-think-about-it-anymore"
- *For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. **Matt.6:14-15***
- *And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins. **Mark 11:25***
- *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **I John 1:9***