

Remnant Life Church

February 23, 2020

**On Eagles Wings**

**Part 5**

“A Love Story”

I Cor 13:1-13

What emotion other than love could inspire such words as...

*How do I love thee? Let me count the ways. I love thee to the depth and breadth and height my soul can reach, when feeling out of sight for the ends of being and ideal grace. I love thee to the level of every day's most quiet need, by sun and candlelight. I love thee freely, as men strive for right; I love thee purely, as they turn from praise. I love thee with the passion put to use in my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith. I love thee with a love I seemed to lose with my lost saints, -- I love thee with the breath, smiles, tears, of all my life!-- and, if God choose, I shall but love thee better after death.*

**Elizabeth Barrett Browning - 1845**

- Untold 100,000's of poems, songs, stories, books and movies have been devoted to love
  - 23 years ago – Titanic movie – a love story set against the familiar backdrop
  - Gone With The Wind (1939 – released in Jan. 1940 – 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary)
  - Shakespeare's - Romeo & Juliet - the agonizing story of unrealized love
  - The great Roman General Antony and Egyptian Queen Cleopatra
  - Historical love story - Queen Victoria (Grt-grt Grmother of QE2)
    - Lively, cheerful girl who loved painting
    - Queen at the age of 18 when in 1837 the death of her father King William IV
    - 1840 married Prince Albert of Germany – both 21
    - 9 children
    - He died in 1861 at age 42
    - For the next 40 years of her life she was in mourning and always wore black

The eagle, in spite of its size, power, fierceness and aggressiveness is a committed, caring, thoughtful and gentle mate.

**Eagle Relationships**

- Eagles mate for life.
- Even after the death of the mate, many eagles, have been observed living life in solitude rather than take another mate.
- Not only do many mate for life but the male continues to court his mate through their entire lives. (Perhaps a wise concept for us to learn, men)
  - Eagles have been observed performing a complicated acrobatic aerial courtship
  - It is done not only to attract a mate, but keep her

- In recognizing the power of love, we must realize that God’s love is beyond our comprehension by even the simplest of comparisons
- What does that mean?
  - **Our love**
    - Begins with physical attraction before developing feelings
      - Hormones, pheromones, and adrenaline
      - Physiology of attraction is very similar to fear
    - Man took from the animal kingdom, in many ways, the method for attract a mate
      - Virtually every male in the animal kingdom must attract the female
        - That is why the peacock and not the peahen have the great expanse of colorful plumage
        - Many of the male large land animals such as the bear, lion, and elephant have great battles with the winner getting the female or females of the herd
    - Once the attraction and initial meetings have taken place emotions and feelings begin to develop
    - It is also, initially, an attraction that is based on what we receive back
    - It will be dependent on the other person’s behavior
      - “What have you done for me?”
        - Conditional vs non-conditional
      - Hopefully, this changes when dating moves into something more serious with a deeper level of commitment present
    - But still, very often, the love we offer and understand has a beginning and ending point
  - **God’s love**
    - Has nothing to do with what we do or have done
      - **Rom. 5:8** - *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
    - It is unconditional meaning unearnable
      - **Rom. 6:23** – *The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
        - Wages –the pay and materials given to a soldier for performing his duty
        - What he did merited what he received
        - Now listen to that same verse again
          - *The payment for what you have done is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
        - God’s love cannot be earned and is why Paul writes in...
        - **Eph 2:8-9** - *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*
    - God’s love has no beginning and no end

- **Jer. 1:5** - *Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.*
- It is not something He does, it is who He is
  - **I John 4:7-11** - *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*
- This is His love for each of us every day, in every circumstance, from the moment we are born to the moment we die.

### Maintaining Our Relationships

1. Every relationship of importance in our lives requires effort.
2. Three most important require the most attention
  - a. God; Family; Friends
  - b. They all require the same thing from us
    - Time
    - Invested energy
    - Sacrifice
3. Jesus' example of persistence in relationships -
 

**Revelation 3:20** - *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.*

  - Written to the church at Laodicea; Asia Minor
  - Jesus Himself knocks at the door of our hearts
4. What are we willing to do for our relationships?
  - a. *The Five Love Languages* – Dr. Gary Chapman
5. **I Cor 13** – what our love should look like
 

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.*

That is what the love of God should look like in our lives

And the very best way we can demonstrate God's love to the people around us is by loving those in our lives to the best of our ability in the same way that God loves us – unconditionally.