

# Got LOVE?

## Loving SELF

May 3, 2009

And so **faith, hope, love** abide

**Faith** — conviction & belief respecting man's relation to God & divine things;

**Hope** — joyful & confident expectation of eternal salvation;

**Love** — true affection for God & man, growing out of God's love for & in us, these three; but the greatest of these is **love**.

1 Corinthians 13:13 (Amp)

### Life *without* LOVE is really worthless

1 Corinthians 13:3 If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

### Love your neighbor as *yourself*

Leviticus 19:18 "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 19:19 Honor your father and mother. Love your neighbor as yourself.

Romans 13:9 For the commandments say, "You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet." These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Galatians 5:14 For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

James 2:8 Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

### Why don't we have *more* LOVE in our lives?

- The story of the women at the well

John 4:9-12, 19-20 The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?" Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water." "But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?"..."Sir," the woman said, "you must be a prophet. So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?"

Response: Choose God's love & surrender my feelings & forgive.

*Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less.*

- The story of the rich young ruler

**Mark 10:21-22** Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. "There is still one thing you haven't done," he told him. "Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." At this the man's face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

**John 8:32** And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

Response: Choose God's love & surrender my rights & selfishness.

*A church family/small groups moves us out of our self centered isolation.*

### Embrace *God's* LOVE for you!

**Ephesians 3:17-19** And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

*Loving God and others cannot be done outside of experiencing God's love yourself  
and accepting what that love reveals about you.*