

TITLE: AGAPE LOVE TOWARDS GOD (STUDYING HIS WORD)

TEXT: 1 JOHN 5:1-3

THESIS: The purpose of this sermon is to discuss agape love in relation to God. How do we seek God's best interest? By obeying Him in all things. This absolutely requires knowing His Word!

INTRO: How do we show love to God? *Agape love* is seeking the best interest of another (compared to *phileo* – brotherly love – which requires a relationship; it takes time to feel this toward another). How do we seek the best interest of someone about whom we know nothing? It stands to reason then that we should begin by studying his Word in order to determine what HE wants!

I. LOVING GOD (1 John 5:1-3):

- A. Context – Gnosticism – belief that Jesus did *not* come in the flesh (cf. 1 Jn 4:1-2 – test of the spirits)
- B. Loving God is loving Jesus (can't have one without the other)
- C. We love God's children when we love God. We love God when we keep His commandments. Why? Because God commands us to love one another (4:7-8).
Therefore, loving God = **keeping His commandments** (very tangible) = loving one another
Anyone can say "I love God," or "I love my brother," but obedience is very visible!
- D. FOR, this *is* the love the God...that we keep his commandments. Obedience!
 - 1. Many churches claim to be loving, but true love for God's children is found in *obedience* to God!
 - 2. If you & I are *both* being obedient to God in all things, we cannot help but be in fellowship (1 Jn 1:7)
- E. THEREFORE, agape love towards one another begins with obedience to God (= love for God (agape))

II. OBEDIENCE TO WHAT?:

- A. Commandments. Jn 14:15 – "If you love me (agapao), keep my commandments"
How does God command us? Commands & examples (explicitly & implicitly). All are found in the Word.
- B. Heb 11:6 - without faith it is *impossible* to please God. SO, we NEED faith! How then do we get it?
- C. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Rom 10:17). So let's see what the word says...

III. VERSES THAT TEACH US TO STUDY:

- A. 2 Tim 3:16-17 – All scripture is...useful for...thoroughly equipped for every good work.
 - Don't you want to do good works?
 - Judged by works/words - Rev 20:12; Mt 12:37
- B. 2 Pet 1:3 – He's given us everything we need for life and godliness through our *knowledge* (comes from studying)
- C. Isa 1:18 – come let us reason together
- D. 1 Thess 5:21 – prove (scrutinize; test) all things; hold fast that which is good. Against what standard?
How can this be done without knowing God's word...the objective standard?
- E. 2 Tim 2:15 – Study [give diligence; make effort; exert one's self] to show thyself approved unto God...
- F. 1 Pet 3:15 – be ready always to give an answer (defense) to every man that asks you...
- G. 1 Jn 4:1 – test the spirits whether they are of God
- H. Acts 17:11 – example of knowing scripture and using it to test the spirits

Bible Reading Schedule !!!!! Encouragement to read the Bible completely in one year.

-Benefits of doing this

-Dangers of not doing it (excuses to God for having never read all of His Word)!

CONCLUSION: 2 Cor 5:9 teaches us that we should make it our goal to be well pleasing to God. Do you want to be pleasing to God? There is no way to even begin to please God without knowing His word. The Word provides us with everything we need for life and godliness (2 Pet 1:3). This means it provides us with all we need in order to become a Christian, and all we need to remain faithful.