

GROWING IN LOVE

Series: "VITAL SIGNS", Part 1 of 4

Sunday, June 5, 2022 at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Text: Miscellaneous Scriptures from relevant passages

Big Idea: An increasing love for God, God's people and the purposes of God is one of the most significant vital signs for spiritual health.

John 13:34-35, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 15:12, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

John 15:17, "This is my command: Love each other."

Romans 12:10a, "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love."

Romans 13:8, "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law."

1 Corinthians 16:14, "Do everything in love."

Galatians 5:14, "The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Ephesians 5:2, "And live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

James 2:8, "If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right."

1 Peter 4:8, "Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins." {NASV}

1 John 3:11, "This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another."

1 John 3:23, “And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.”

William Wilberforce said, “Above all, measure your progress by your experience of the love of God and its exercise before men.”

Definition of love: “To desire the best for another, **AND** be willing to act in a way that is consistent with their best interest, and ultimate flourishing, especially when it is costly to you.”

THINGS WE COMMONLY MISTAKE FOR LOVE:

1. An outward appearance of religiosity.

Matthew 23:23, ““Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.”

2. Superficial niceness.

Matthew 15:22-23, “A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession.”²³ Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.”

Psalms 62:4b, “With their mouths they bless, but in their hearts they curse.”

3. Always saying “yes” to any request.

Matthew 20:21, “Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.”

Matthew 22a, "You don't know what you are asking."

Ephesians 3:10a, "His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known."

Ephesians 3:21a, "To him be glory in the church."