

“MOTIVATED BY LOVE” - 05-18-03

Why do we do what we do? If it is not out of **love**, then why are we doing it?

“This is My commandment, that you **love** one another, just as I have **loved** you. Greater **love** has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends, if you do what I command you.” **John 15:12-14**

It is because of the leanness of our **love** that problems seem so unsolvable – **Love** covers a multitude of sins

We often do things out of a sense duty & routine, forgetting that His love is to be manifested through us

If duty is the only reason we do things we are but a clanging cymbal, a noisy gong (**1 Cor. 13:1**)

Key problem is we want to be loved more than we want to love – Our focus tends to self-centered rather than other-centered

The issue is not just about **loving** our families, but to **love** the unlovable, unlovely, people we don't even like

It profits us nothing if we don't serve out of **love** (**1 Cor.13:3**), no matter how generous, prophetic, or knowledgeable

Is there someone you haven't forgiven? Someone who has offended you? Hurt you? Deceived you?

We can hold on to unforgiveness or release a person just as Jesus has released us (Lord's Prayer) from our debts (trespasses)

We are forgiven to the extent we forgive “For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.” - **Matt. 6:14-15**

Why don't we forgive? - our own pride, our need for justice, forget our own place at foot of Cross & choose feelings over obedience

He who is forgiven much **loves** much – He who is forgiven little **loves** little – **Luke 7:40-50**

Love never fails – We were apprehended by the **love** of God - God is love - His **love** endures forever

“You shall **love** the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind...

You shall **love** your neighbor as yourself”- **Matthew 22:37-39** The two greatest commandments

Col. 3:14 “And beyond all these things **put on love**, which is the **perfect bond of unity**.” - Key to unity is **love**

Owe nothing to anyone except to **love** – Rom. 8 - When you lay hold of His **love** we get His grace for difficult circumstances

Let the **love** of the brethren continue (**Heb. 13:1**) - Easy to cause division, not care & justify ourselves

God will never love you more than He loves you now – Amazing! – Even while we were yet sinners!

No orphans in the Body of Christ – Why? Because we belong to our heavenly Father – We are adopted into His **loving** care

The **love** of God is to be at the very heart of all we do – **LOVE NEVER FAILS...1 Corinthians. 13:8**

“But now abide faith, hope, **love**, these three; **but the greatest of these is love.**” – **1 Corinthians 13:13**