



FAITH EXPRESSING ITSELF THROUGH LOVE

John 13:34, 35 and Galatians 5:6

I. THE PURPOSE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

A. Neither knowledge (doctrinal purity) nor personal holiness (personal purity) as ends in themselves

1. The demons possess knowledge which is Biblical in its content, James 2:19, Mark 1:21-28
2. The Pharisees pursued personal holiness; they were meticulous in their obedience to the law (the “What”), but they hated the God Who gave the law (the “Who”)

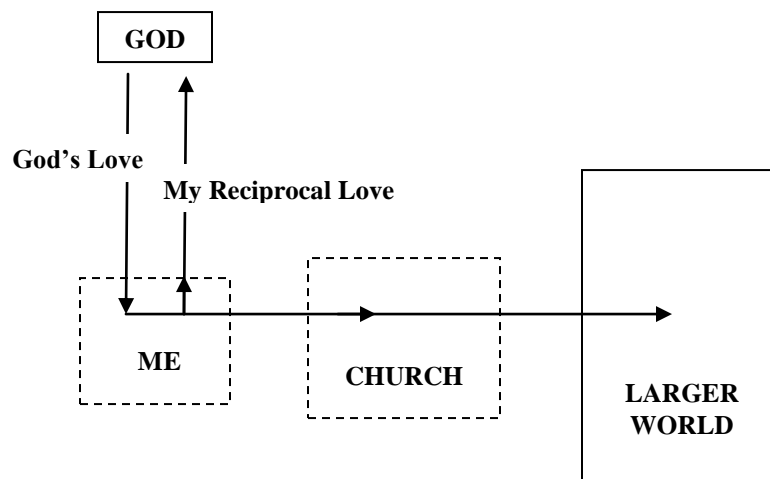
B. Love for God and others

Only then are other people and the ultimate Person included in the purpose of the Christian life

II. AN OUTWARD FOCUS

Galatians 6:5; I Thessalonians 1:3; Mathew 5:13-16; Mathew 9:35-38; Mathew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8

A. The movement of God’s love: from God to the person, to the church and then to the world





FAITH EXPRESSING ITSELF THROUGH LOVE

1. Our love for each other within the Body of Christ is the expression and overflow of God's love for us.

2. Our love for each other within the church is the visible expression of God's love in the world.

3. Testifying to others regarding the existence of God's love within us is not first of all a special activity (witnessing), but a natural quality of our communal life.
 - a. Principle: the quality of our communion as believers is going to powerfully impact the credibility of our gospel witness.

 - b. Story of Masud Bin Masud: Principle—truth is true whether we live it or not, but truth will not be believed, especially by outsiders, unless we live it.

- B. I Peter 3:15—presupposes active, significant relationships with outsiders.
 1. No Christian ghettos, isolated, walled off from the culture

 2. Error of Christian consumerism

 3. Light and salt to the world

 4. Not only go to the world, but think of creative ways of inviting the world to come to us in order that the world may see us in our relationships with one another and, as a result, begin to see and experience the love of God in communion of the saints.



- B. A new command - John 13: 34, 35
 - 1. Watching world
 - 2. Longing world
 - 3. Empty world
 - 4. The mark of the authentic Christian and authentic Christian community
 - 5. Purpose of Christ's command
 - 6. "The love of God displayed in His people is the strongest apologetic (proof of His existence) that God has in the world."

III. THE MISSIONAL/EVANGELISTIC IMPACT OF THE COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS

- A. The invisible God
 - 1. The living communion of the saints is the visible expression of God and of the gospel in the world.
 - 2. The satanic strategy

- B. The family resemblance - I John 3:12; 4:7, 8

- C. The necessity for beauty as well as truth