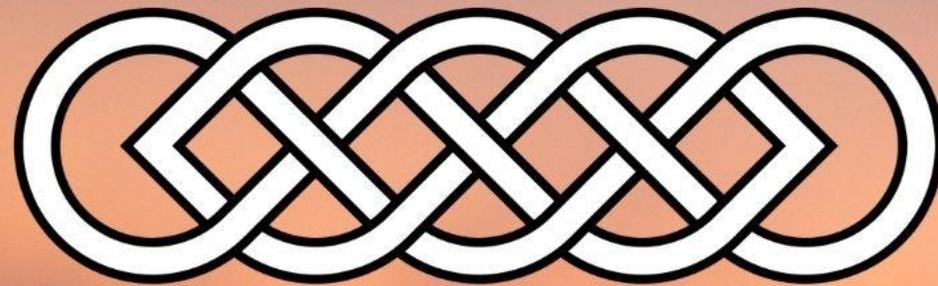


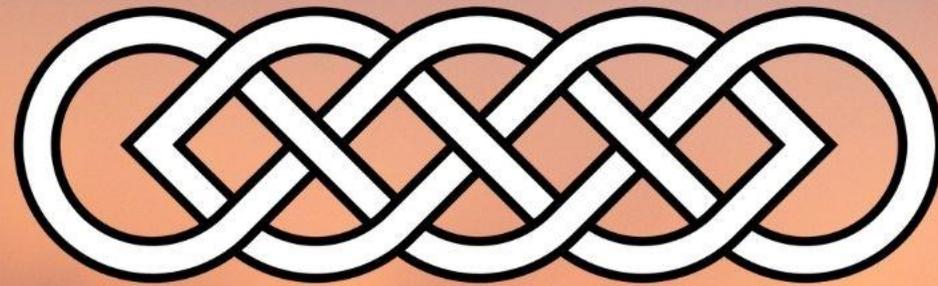
EPHESIANS

Living by Grace through Faith in Christ Jesus



Summer Sermon Series

**FAITH-DRIVEN
LOVE
FOR JESUS**



**Ephesians 6:23-24
Revelation 2:1-7**

Introduction

“Love” (“agape”) in Ephesians

- ***1:4-6***
- ***1:15***
- ***2:4-5***
- ***3:14-19***
- ***4:1-3***
- ***4:14-16***
- ***5:1-2***
- ***5:25-30***

*The Apostle Paul closes his
Letter to the Ephesians
with **two powerful**
statements (6:23-24)
concerning the importance
of **the Christian's**
love for Jesus.*

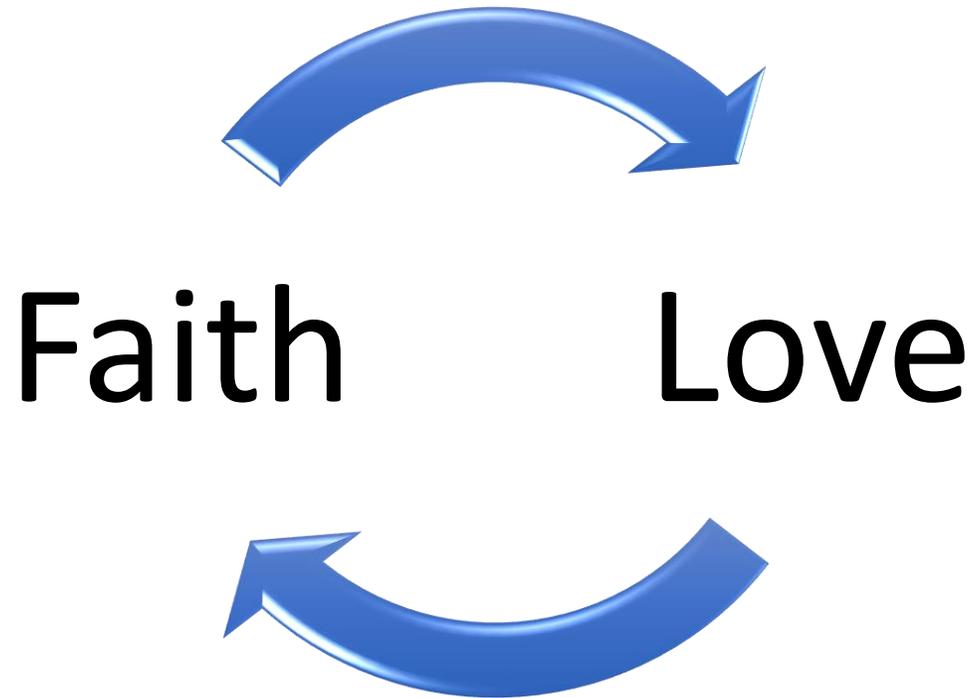
*From these two statements in
Ephesians 6:23-24,
we can see **three truths**
about **biblical, Christian love**
that every Christian
needs to believe and live out.*

1. Biblical, Christian love is always **demonstrated** through biblical **faith**.

- *Both love and faith are provided to Christians by God the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ. (2:4-5, 8-9)*
- *The same is true of God the Father's gift of peace through Jesus Christ that all Christians enjoy. (1:2; 2:14, 17)*

Observation

Biblical, Christian love must be driven by biblical **faith**.



Application

Our love as Christians must never be based on our circumstances but on **the faith that God gives** us to trust Him and to obey His Word.

2. Biblical, Christian love is always **preeminently** focused on **Jesus**. (6:24)

- *It is not wrong of God to **demand** that Christians love His Son this way.*
- *It should not be hard for Christians to love their Lord and Savior above all else. However, we still have a sin nature that delights in loving **idols**.*

Observation

Biblical, Christian love must
love Jesus **above all else**—
for all time.

Application

Be careful that no aspect of your Christian ministry (*home, church, work, etc.*) is meditated on, planned out, or lived out without biblical love for Jesus.

3. Biblical, Christian love is always **dependent** on God's **grace**.

- *Everything we are called to obey as Christians is dependent on us yielding to God's grace.*
- ***Titus 2:11-14***

“This benediction of grace [6:24] is for those who are committed to loving Christ and who need his grace in order to survive in a world that will hate them as it hated Christ.”

(Harold W. Hoehner, Ephesians. p. 875)

Observation

- Biblical, Christian love is **impossible** for us to work up in our own strength alone.
- We need *God's supernatural enabling to fulfill His purposes for our life* (i.e. **His grace**).

Application

- Rejoice in God's grace to you as you love Jesus in every aspect of your Christian ministry.
- Never think that you can love Jesus preeminently without being dependent God's grace.

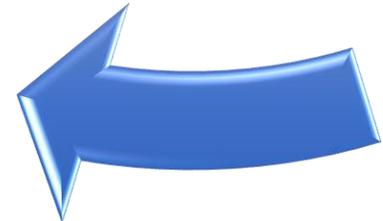
Grace

Faith

Jesus

Love

Peace



*This isn't the last we hear of
the Christians in Ephesus!*

*Jesus Christ gives them
a strong warning in
Revelation 2:1-7—
and it centers around
their **love for Him.***

4. Jesus **never** takes it lightly if Christians stop loving Him **preeminently!** (*Rev. 2:1-7*)

- *Jesus calls these Christians to **remember** how their love for Him used to dominate their motives and actions and to **reflect** on how far they have fallen from His grace. (**Galatians 5:4**)*

4. Jesus **never** takes it lightly if Christians stop loving Him **preeminently!** (*Rev. 2:1-7*)

- *Jesus calls these Christians to **repent** from “doing ministry” outwardly without true love for Him inwardly. (*Ephesians 6:24*)*

4. Jesus **never** takes it lightly if Christians stop loving Him **preeminently!** (*Rev. 2:1-7*)

Jesus illustrates their sin with the shockingly sad illustration of a wife abandoning her husband – her “first love.” (Ephesians 5:22-24)

4. Jesus **never** takes it lightly if Christians stop loving Him **preeminently!** (*Rev. 2:1-7*)

Jesus does not want to be your “first love” that you eventually abandon and move on to another—He must be your preeminent and forever love!

4. Jesus **never** takes it lightly if Christians stop loving Him **preeminently!** (*Rev. 2:1-7*)

- *Jesus calls these Christians to **restore** their love for Him by doing His good works the right way for the right reason—out of **eternal love for Christ!** (*Ephesians 2:10*)*

4. Jesus **never** takes it lightly if Christians stop loving Him **preeminently!** (*Rev. 2:1-7*)

- *Jesus warns this Church that if they do not repent, their effectiveness for Him will be totally taken away.*

Observation

- Do not be deceived by Satan into thinking that Jesus is not omnisciently or omnipresently aware of your thoughts, motives, or actions.
- **Jesus knows everything about you—*because He loves you!***

Application

If you are a Christian, and your love for Jesus has grown lukewarm, or cold, or if perhaps you have abandoned Jesus “as your first love,” now is the time to **remember, repent, and restore.**

Application

If you are a Christian, and your love for Jesus is growing deeper and fuller each day, now is not the time to stop! Your family and your church needs you to **keep loving Jesus above all** in all that you do.

BIG IDEA

Biblical Christians
live effectively
for God's glory
by loving Jesus
preeminently.

*“Here is love vast as the ocean,
Loving kindness as the flood;
When the Prince of life, our ransom,
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten
Throughout Heaven’s eternal days.”*

*“Here Is Love Vast As the Ocean”
by William Rees (during the 1904 Welsh Revival)*

*“On the Mount of Crucifixion
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God’s mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers
Poured incessant from above;
And Heaven’s peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.”*

*“Here Is Love Vast As the Ocean”
by William Rees (during the 1904 Welsh Revival)*

*“Let us all His love accepting,
Love Him ever all our days;
Let us seek His Kingdom only,
And our lives be to His praise.
He alone shall be our glory,
Nothing in the world we see;
He has cleansed and sanctified us,
He Himself has set us free.”*

*“Here Is Love Vast As the Ocean”
by William Rees (during the 1904 Welsh Revival)*

*“In His truth He does direct me,
By His Spirit through His Word.
And His grace my need is meeting,
As I trust in Him, my Lord.
All His fullness He is pouring,
In His love and power in me;
Without measure,
Full and boundless,
As I yield myself to Thee.”*

*“Here Is Love Vast As the Ocean”
by William Rees (during the 1904 Welsh Revival)*

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