

## HOW WILL THE WORLD SEE JESUS?

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*“A new commandment I give you, That you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”* (John 13:34-35)

**D**o we want the world to know that we are Jesus’ disciples? Surely we do. Why do we want the world around us to know that we are Jesus’ disciples? So that they can see Jesus in us and have the opportunity to respond to His love for them, just like we have responded to His love for us. How will the world know that we are Jesus’ disciples? How will the world see Jesus in us and have the opportunity to respond to His love for them? If we love one another.

Yes, it is important to preach. That is why yesterday we were on the streets of this city, preaching the gospel. That was a demonstration of the love of God for the world around us. But that in itself is not enough. **The world will see Jesus when it sees the love we have for one another within the body of Christ, the love we demonstrate for one another.** We must love one another, just like He has loved us.

**H**ave any of you realized that the world is becoming colder and colder? People are becoming harsher and harsher. There is more fear, more violence, more deceit, more selfishness, and more suspicion than perhaps at any other time in history. This was predicted through the apostle Paul two thousand years ago.

<sup>1</sup> *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*

<sup>2</sup> *For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,*

<sup>3</sup> *Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,*

<sup>4</sup> *Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;*

<sup>5</sup> *Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.* (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

Men shall be lovers of their own selves. Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. And Jesus also prophesied about this time when He said:

<sup>11</sup> *And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*

<sup>12</sup> *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.* (Matthew 24:11-12)

Because wickedness will increase, because people will be lovers of themselves and lovers of pleasure, and so the love of many shall wax cold. How many of you have realized that this is exactly what is happening in nearly every society around the world? People are loving and caring for each other less and less. That is what is happening in the world. People are becoming harder. **The world is becoming a colder and harsher place to live in**

**B**ut this should not be so in the body of Christ. **The body of Christ should be the one place where love is not growing cold.** People should be able to look at us in the Body of Christ and say to themselves, “Those people have something I do not have. They have something I desperately need. They have love for each other, in the middle of a loveless world.”

We should be learning to love God more than to love pleasure. To be lovers of God and to love each other rather than being lovers of ourselves. If we love one another, as He has loved us, the world will see that love and be able to respond to God themselves.

We spoke last week about how important it is to have fellowship with each other, with our brothers and sisters in Christ (see the message, “The Body of Christ”). Part of fellowship, if you remember, is the exchange of love. How are we going to do that? How are we going to love each other?

The first key is this. We must love each other, AS HE HAS LOVED US. So if we are going to love each other, we must grow in our understanding and experience of His love for us. We can only give what we have received.

*We love, because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)*

There is something I want you to do. I want you to take some time, alone, every day, each and every day this week. Maybe 10 or 15 minutes in the morning. You may have to get up early to do this. And during that time I want you to think about what Jesus has done for you. I want you to thank Him for the ways He has shown His love to you, and the ways He is still showing His love for you. He died for you. He has forgiven you of ALL of your sins. He has guaranteed you a place in heaven, paid for by His own blood. If you are born again, He lives inside you and gives you wisdom and guidance for your life. He blesses you with all kinds of blessings in this life. You have a Bible full of His precious promises to you. He loves you so much, and I want you to think about that. Meditate on it. Ask Him to show you even more how much He loves you. But take time to do that alone, and make sure you thank Him for each thing that comes to mind that He has done and is doing for you. Those things that He has done and is doing for you are His expressions of love for you. The more you realize how much He loves you, the more you will be able to love Him back by loving your brothers and sisters. Will you do that?

The second Key is this: To know that we already have His love in our hearts.

*“The love of God **has been** poured out within our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”  
(Romans 5:5)*

He has already poured out His love in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who He has given us. We already have the love we need for each other, because Jesus lives in our hearts and He is love.

So the third Key that I will give you this morning is, ask God, “How can I love my brothers and sisters in Christ? How can I express that love which lives in my heart?”

Remember, we are not talking here about loving the world. We are talking about loving our brothers and sisters in Christ, and when we love one another, the world will see Jesus. So I want

you to start with this- begin to ask God, “How can I demonstrate love to my brothers and sisters in Christ in this body of believers?”

*“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works...” (Hebrews 10:24)*

Ask God how to do that, and then consider how you can love your brothers and sisters and encourage them. This is going to cost you. It is going to cost you time, and effort, and it is going to mean that you will have to move out of your comfort zone. This is something new- just like Jesus said, “A new commandment I give you”.

So, God wants us to love one another.

The three keys? Meditate on how much God loves you. Remember His love lives within you so you already have the ability and resources within you to love others. And ask Him to show what you can do to demonstrate that love to your brothers and sisters.

**A**nd His promise to us is that **ALL men will know that we are His disciples, if we will love one another.**

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