

WE WERE CREATED TO LOVE

1<sup>ST</sup>JOHN 4: 7-21

"BELOVED, LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER: FOR LOVE IS OF GOD; AND EVERY ONE THAT LOVETH IS BORN OF GOD AND KNOWETH GOD."

My brothers and sisters have you ever wondered if your life has a purpose, because the Word of God says that it does and you do have and that it is noble and desirable. Every believer was created to love and to be loved.

My brothers and sisters God loves us personally and individually without limits or qualifications. He desires to shower us with His affection and kindness.

Let me assure you about that love in this sermon today. One thing for sure is that God's love is the most important thing that we can know about him, because we were created to love Him.

The very essence of God's being in other words, his persona, and his nature is love. 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:8 tells us that, "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is God."

It is the reason that Jesus Christ came to earth, lived and then died to restore man's relationship with the Father.

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever beliveth in him, shall not perish, but have everlasting." He was created from love; yes Jesus Christ was created from love.

The Lord's affection is absolute, unwavering and sacrificial, and is not subject to favoritism. He cares for the sinner as much as he does for the saint. So, in our human pride or our desire to be somebody special, we may find that fact difficult to swallow, but God grants love to all people and all religions.

My brothers and sisters the Bible tells us that rain falls on the just and the unjust, and that the sun shines on the righteous and the unrighteous (Matt.5:45). This means that in God everyone experiences certain benefits and blessings from Him.

But the people who receive Jesus Christ as Savior are in a position to reap blessings from him that accompany an outpouring of love into his or her life. We were created for love by the Father.

My brothers and sisters, I need to tell you that the Lord's love is not based upon anything that we do, what we have, what we accomplish, or what we achieve in life either. He freely gives it to us simply because we are His creation, His children.

You cannot win or earn more of God's favor it has nothing to do with performance, either. We must accept and delight in that truth. We were created to be loved.

But how do we show this love? I need to ask some questions here: How do you love someone who continues to go down a narrow dark path no matter how much guidance you try to give? How do you continue to love someone who always points out the negative but never the positive things that you do?

How do you love that parent who was absent from your life as a child growing up? We were created in love!!!

God gives us an answer to these questions in *John 15:12* because it says:

<sup>12</sup> "This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you." We were created to love.

But how do you love, hey wait a minute, do you know what this means?

My brothers and sisters it means that you can't keep count of how many times a person has let you down, that you can't remind them of what they have done to you, that you can't attach conditions to your love, and that you can't withhold your love from them, love is an action word, it is not passive.

It may not be easy to love, but God commands it, therefore we must show the love of God to everybody we come into contact with even if we don't think that they deserve to be loved. Because they were created to be loved.

The second thing is that the most important response we can make is to reciprocate God's love. The apostle John said it simple and eloquently, "We love Him because He first loved us," 1st John 4:19.

But the question is do we really love Jesus Christ? How many of you say that you really love Jesus Christ? This question is the litmus test as to whether that which we say is true or not based on the Bible and the song, "Oh how I love Jesus." But the question is: do we as Christians really know what that means?

Because loving Jesus Christ is important to our being saved, let us look at the distinguishing characteristics of a person who does love Jesus the Christ and Son of God.

Does he /she will lay down their lives for him, "Greater love hath no man than this, and that a man lay down his life for his friends, if you do whatsoever I command you".

So Jesus gives a clear line of demarcation as to those who love him and those who don't. Do I obey His Word in every area of my life? If you are honest, you will be able to answer yes to that question with clarity.

He or she will not love the world.<sup>1st</sup> John2:15 says, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world, if any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him".

My brothers and sisters, when we love Jesus Christ we can expect these results. Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Father will make their home in us and manifest themselves...Yes they will take up residence in us and be open to every situation that we encounter.

I ask the question again, do we love Jesus like He loves us?

If you don't, I want you to stand up and come up here to get to know and love him right now. You were created to love Him. You are a work of love.