

Love Is the Foundation

Introduction

1. **Show me a house worth keeping and I'll show you a house that is built on a firm foundation.**

Love: **God - Jesus;** **Jesus - Man;** **Man - Man**

Love Is the Foundation

Eph 3:17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in **love**,

1. **Christ must be on our hearts - and we must be grounded in love.**

A. Love is "Agape" meaning a benevolent love, a giving love, a compassionate love as in John 3:16.

2. **We are to fervently love each other.**

1 Pet 1:22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

A. fervent meaning "intently, earnestly".

3. **We are to love each other as Christ loved us.**

John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

A. Again the word love in vs 34,35 is "Agape". Do we really express this type of love to each other?

**4. The Bible teaches us that all we do must be in a spirit of love.
1 Corinthians 13:1-7**

- A. Again, the love expressed in verse one is “Agape” - a love that is benevolent, giving as opposed to “Phileo” which represents tender affection.**

5. We know that if we do not love, we abide in death.

I Jn 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

- A. To love is to live!**

Once we have LOVE as our foundation, then other Christian virtues or characteristics can be built on the solid foundation of LOVE.

These characteristics will not stand strong very long if we do not have LOVE firmly concreted on our hearts.

Unity

1. We should PRAY for unity.

John 17:9-11; 20-23

- A. Jesus prayed for unity, that we all might be united together as one just as Jesus was with his Father and the Father in Jesus.**

2. We should PLEA for unity.

1 Cor 1:10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

- A. Can we all agree? Can we exist without divisions? Can we be made complete in the same mind? Yes - but only if LOVE is firmly grounded.**

3. We should keep the PLAN of unity.

Eph 4:3-6 endeavoring to keep the **unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace**. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

- A. **We must see that there is only one body, spirit, hope, Lord, faith, baptism, and God. God has set his plan for unity, now we need to enforce it.**

4. We must be unified in mind

Rom 12:16 Be of the same **mind** toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be **wise** in your own opinion.

- A. **The word **mind** is taken from the Greek word "Phroneo" which is "to set the affections on". In other words, our minds should be affectionate one toward another.**
- B. **The word **wise** is taken from the Greek word "Phronimos" which is "in an evil sense, thinking oneself to be prudent judging by one's self-complacency" (Being self-satisfied or pleased with himself)**

5. We should be filled with perseverance and encouragement which will help us stay unified.

Rom 15:5-6 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- A. **If we are filled with perseverance (patience) and encouragement we will ensure that we are in one accord with each other and Jesus.**

Courteous

1. We need to be courteous to each other.

- A. We need to exercise good judgment when dealing with others such as being tactful.

Explain content of 1 Peter 3:1-7

1 Pet 3:8 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous;

- B. It is Sometimes very difficult to put ourselves second. However, we must strive to be humble in spirit (courteous). We Must really care about others more than ourselves. How does it show? It shows in our words and actions.

Compassion or Sympathy

1. Do we know that Jesus can sympathize with us?

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

- A. It's comforting to know that Jesus can and does sympathize with our weaknesses, realizes we sin, and is ready, willing and waiting to forgive us!

2. Two situations in Luke where compassion was felt for another.

Good Samaritan Luke 10:33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion.

Prodigal Son Luke 15:20 And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

Tender-hearted

1. We are to have a heart of tender-heartedness toward others.

Eph 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

Col 3:12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

2. This is often displayed when we open our hearts toward those in need.

I Jn 3:17-18 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

A. Actions always speak louder than words.

*Your talk talks and your walk talks,
but your walk talks more than your talk talks.*

B. Brethren, if we keep this lesson on our hearts at all times, we will be the most loving, Christ-like Christians we could possibly be.

Conclusion

1. Love must be grounded in our hearts - it must be the foundation of our existence as Christians. With a true love of Christ and our fellow brothers and sisters we will be:

- A. Unified
- B. Courteous
- C. Compassionate
- D. Tender-hearted

2. Is our **LOVE** where it should be today? Are our hearts right with **GOD**?

