

LOVE REFINED

Love Serves

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like Him. (1 John 4:16b-17)

Worldly love is pride being expressed in self-preoccupation...

Then Samson's wife threw herself on him, sobbing, "You hate me! You don't really love me. You've given my people a riddle, but you haven't told me the answer." "I haven't even explained it to my father or mother," he replied, "so why should I explain it to you?" She cried the whole seven days of the feast. (Judges 14:16-17a)

- ***I love you because; I love you if; I love you until; I love you when...***

Real love is humility being demonstrated in selfless service...

It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He now showed them the full extent of His love. (John 13:1)

- ***The action of servant-love: to bend low*** – “The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power, and that He had come from God and was returning to God; so He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.” (vv. 13:2-6)
- ***The motivation of servant-love: to emulate Jesus*** – “When He had finished washing their feet, He put on His clothes and returned to His place. ‘Do you understand what I have done for you?’ He asked them. ‘You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.’” (vv. 12-15)

¶ ***Servant-love doesn't seek fairness with people, it seeks faithfulness to God*** – “If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.” (Matt. 5:41)

- ***The attitude of servant-love: to do so gladly*** – “I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” (vv. 16-17)

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