

Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 12:11 PM
Subject: Tuesday Nite's MOB Study

Warren Wiersbe called it "something old, something new!" John, in writing his epistle--and specifically the text for Tuesday nite's lesson (in I John 2:7-11) notes that the Old Testament commandment to love God "with all your heart and with your soul and with all might...and your neighbor as yourself..." was, in a sense, now a "new" commandment for believers and followers of Christ! New in emphasis, and in substance, and in achievability! The "agape-type" love referred to had been demonstrated by the life of Christ and could actually be lived out--and was, in fact, now expected to be lived out--because of the presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit in the life of the believer! Paul wrote in Romans 5:12 that the "love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us!"

And so a new "agape-type" love, had now become the mark of a true believer. Jesus Himself had anticipated this when, just prior to heading to the Cross, He said to His disciples: "A new commandment I give you that you love one another, even as I have loved you that you love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples if you have love for one another." (John 13:33-34)

Paul, in Galatians 5:22, included this very love as number one in the list of the "fruits of the spirit" that would characterize those who belonged to God by faith in Christ! And, in I Corinthians 13, he provides the best description ever written of what real love is all about, in a practical and down to earth way! He ends it with the words: "But now abide faith, hope, and love; these three; but the greatest of these is love!" Check it out, again!

John also writes that "the one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him" (I John 2:10). Light extinguishes the darkness and not only prevents one from "stumbling" himself, but also from becoming a "stumbling block" for others! And Paul adds, in Romans 13:10, that loving one's neighbor is actually a "fulfillment of the law"!

And so John puts the combination of light, life and love together to describe a live that is "real". And the neat thing about it is that loving others no longer represents a check-list of "have to" rules, but now of "want to" attitudes, which also brings a new joy into living!

Jim Meisinger reminded us of a song some of us used to sing as kids: "This little light of mine: I'm going to let it shine..." It's one of those songs that never grows old--and could be another example of taking something that is old and making it new!

Interestingly, John, the author of the epistle we're studying, was once known as one of the "sons of thunder"--not a particularly loving term! But He was obviously changed through his encounter with Jesus, and now is forever remembered as the "beloved disciple." And he even referred to his fellow believers also as "beloved" brothers!

Well, did you know that there's actually a "love that Jesus hates"? Sound unloving and strange? We'll be looking into it in next week's lesson, covering I John 2:12-17. Meanwhile, let's love one another!

Have a great week men!
Lowell