

The Absolutes of Love

The Way of Christ is the way of love. The way of believers in Christ is the way of indwelling love. God's love is an absolute - as absolute as He is. He is no fluctuating source. His love is no wavering affection. He and His love are the same yesterday, today, and forever.

The Love of God has an ABSOLUTE PERMANENCY - "love never fails" (I Cor 13:8). Because of its permanency, love is unconquerable, unquenchable. Its permanency makes love always available. There is no situation in which we cannot love with the love of God. Do you want something that will always glorify God? Don't look to knowledge, miracles, or spiritual gifts... look for God's love.

The love of God has an ABSOLUTE PERFECTION - it is fully complete, deficient in nothing. Paul uses two contrasts to make his point: children and mirrors (vv 8-13). Children are egoists to the core. They are natural born "Me-ologians." Children think and reason and choose from themselves as their point of reference. Thus, their immaturity and imperfections. So much of our Christian activity is just child's play - immature and incomplete - until we enter into living for the sake of others. We will think maturely - perfectly - only in the presence of God's love. In Paul's day, mirrors were highly polished metals that, at best, cast a dim and distorted view of things. We will never see clearly - perfectly - until we see through the lens of God's love. Egocentric "seeing" will keep us in the dark. Only in the light of God's love do we see what God sees. We will only think and see and choose rightly - completely, maturely, perfectly - in the presence of love.

The love of God has an ABSOLUTE PRE-EMINENCE - "the greatest of these is love"(I Cor 13:13). Love has first place... over gifts, knowledge, practices. When all is said and done at Christ's return, faith will have become sight and hope will have been realized. Faith and hope are great... but love is the greatest for at some point it, alone, will remain. More so, faith and hope are human, but love is Divine! Love is from God and is the "fire" that gives faith its warmth. Love is from God and is the "light" that gives hope its vision. Finally, love is the greatest because it cannot be used by evil. Agape cannot be put in the service of flesh, sin, or the devil. Why not? Because God is love - and love gives itself up for the sake of others (Jo 3:16; Ro 5:8-10). This is our story, this is our gospel. This is the gospel story of God's love for His world. This is the story that never fails!



- **Tax-deductible contributions** - may be made to *One In Christ, Inc.* by mailing your gifts to the address above.
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BITS AND PIECES

Many of our CCF Sunday messages as well as out of town conference sessions can be listened to, downloaded, etc. at

www.stevepettitmessages.com

You can also retrieve monthly newsletter articles/studies from 2010 unto this month.

Thank you for your questions, prayer support, and concern for our pastor search at CCF. No immediate news yet, but we are continuing to talk with potential "candidates" as well as receive recommendations.

Due to a scheduling change, it looks like we may have an October/November conference date available. If interested, contact us soon. Only one date left in the Spring of 2014. Summer and fall of 2014 have a few options left.

In all ways may we live as "living praises" to His holy and awesome name this month. Hope to see you face to face soon!

One In Christ, Inc.
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

CALENDAR

JULY

9	Alachua Study
14,21,28	CCF
26-28	Bar Harbor, ME

SEPTEMBER

15-20	Almonte, CO
27-29	Binghamton, NY

PRAISE & PRAYER

-  *Perfect Love of God that never fails*
-  *His provision for all we need*
-  *Pastor search for CCF*
-  *Upcoming meetings*

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