

Building Blocks Of Faith: A Love That Moves You To Action!

March 1, 2019

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Building Blocks Of Faith, Pt. 8

Hiebert: “Peter’s portrayal of the various facets of a developing Christian character presents **faith** as its **FOUNDATION** and **love** as the **CULMINATION**. The order in which he names these qualities is rhetorical; all are inherent in a maturing Christian character. Not all may be equally developed in any one believer, but they cannot be compartmentalized nor can one quality be selected to the disregard of the others.

Barclay: Agape is “...unconquerable benevolence, invincible goodwill...If we regard a person with **agape**, it means that no matter what that person does to us, no matter how he treats us, no matter if he insults us or injures us or grieves us, we will never allow any bitterness against him to invade our hearts, but will regard him with that unconquerable benevolence and goodwill which will seek nothing but his highest good.”

Wuest: **Agape** is a love that impels one to sacrifice one’s self for the benefit of the object loved... (it) speaks of a love which is awakened by a sense of value in the object loved, an apprehension of its preciousness.

F B Meyer: “Wherever there is true (agape) love, there must be giving, and giving to the point of sacrifice. Love (agape) is not satisfied with giving trinkets; it must give at the cost of sacrifice: it must give blood, life, all. And it was so with the love of God. “He so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son.” “Christ also loved and

gave Himself up...”

Agape *may* involve emotion, but it ***must*** always involve **action**.

Agape is unrestricted, unrestrained, and unconditional.

Agape is self-giving and is not interested in what it can gain, but in what it can give. It is not bent on satisfying the lover, but on helping the one loved whatever the cost.

Agape is active and is not mere sentiment cherished in the heart. Nor is it mere words however eloquent. It does involve feeling and may express itself in words, but it is primarily an attitude toward another that moves the *will to act* in helping to meet the need of the one loved.

Six Important Biblical Traits Of Love:

1 - Love Is Why God Sent HIS SON

John 3:16, *For God so **loved** the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

2 - Love Is The Greatest COMMANDMENT

Matthew 22:37, *Jesus replied: “‘**Love** the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘**Love** your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

3 - Love Is Greater Than FAITH & HOPE

1 Corinthians 13:13, *And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. **But the greatest of these is love.***

4 - Love Demonstrates That I Am A CHRISTIAN

1 John 4:8, *Whoever does not **love** does not know God, because God is **love**. 9 This is how God showed His **love** among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him.*

5 - Love Is The First Fruit Of The SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22, *But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

6 - Love Is The Only Thing That COUNTS

Galatians 5:6, *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The **only thing that counts** is **faith expressing itself through love**.*

Love In Action:

Luke 10:30, *In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, **he passed by on the other side**. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and **when he saw him, he took pity on him**. 34 **He went to him and bandaged his wounds**, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'*

-Love SEES Other People's Needs, SYMPATHIZES With Their Pain And SEIZES The Moment To Do Something Good!

Galatians 6:10, *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

Putting This Lesson Into Practice:

- Reach out to someone you know who is hurting.
- Volunteer to serve others at Cottonwood Creek for the weekend services.
- Visit our Ministry Fair in the Atrium today.