

Lesson 19 - The Church Walking In His Love

The Trinity is the example of perfect love and intimacy flowing between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- ❖ It has been described as though the Father and Son were almost united as one flowing into the other and back again. There was perfect oneness yet they were distinctly different.
- ❖ We are invited up into this perfect love as His sons and daughters.
- ❖ The longing in our heart draws us to be involved in something bigger than our self, into this oneness, this perfect intimacy with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We were created in His image and likeness for a purpose, to be one with Him.

- ❖ Each one of us was meant to be a perfect reflection of the Trinity. We are to get our identity in Him as sons and daughters. (**Rom. 8:16-19**)
- ❖ It has been Father's plan all along for us to be part of this perfect circle of love flowing between everyone in the body of Christ.
- ❖ The glory of the man brought together with the glory of the woman in authentic manhood and womanhood will reflect the true glory of the Father.
- ❖ This is best exemplified in the marriage of a man and woman and the two becoming one flesh, a perfect reflection of Father. (**Gen. 2:24**)
- ❖ This perfect reflection is further expanded into the family united together as one. In the body of Christ, all of the men and women together will reflect the perfect glory of the Father too. We are separate bodies, but all having one Spirit and one mind. There will no longer be man and woman, Jew and Gentile, slave and free, circumcised and uncircumcised, but all one in Christ. (**Gal. 3:28**)
- ❖ Ultimately, this glory is reflected in the uniting of the body of Christ with Jesus at their wedding. There was always only meant to be one bride for Christ. Then, "the whole earth will be filled with His Glory!" The circle of love is complete! (**Is. 6:3**)
- ❖ In marriage a man and woman become one the more they are together. This is how we are to be joined together with our heavenly Father. When the church becomes so much like Jesus that you cannot tell them apart is when the marriage with Jesus will be complete. We will be one with the Father and with Jesus. We will be flowing in love in and out of each one of them!

However, there are many things that hinder this perfect union from happening.

- ❖ The shame-fear-control stronghold hinders our fellowship with our heavenly Father and with each other. We cannot allow shame and fear of rejection to stop us from becoming more one with Father and each other.
- ❖ We must tear down the walls that try to separate us and take off the masks and costumes that try to hide our true identity.
- ❖ We must love ourselves and receive His love so that we then can love others and draw them into the body of Messiah.
- ❖ We must live transparent lives with the walls down and the roof off.

In the garden we lost the understanding of relationship, between a man and woman, with others, and between us and Father.

- ❖ As a result, marriages, friendships, and the body of Messiah have suffered in the area of developing strong, meaningful, deep relationships.
- ❖ We were meant to work as a team, united together with one cause and one purpose. In Bible times the Israelites would call a solemn assembly when there was a threat from an enemy. They would come together with one purpose to hear from God and know what to do about the pending threat. They were united as one in intense prayer and seeking God's direction.
- ❖ Once they had heard from God, they moved out knowing exactly what to do. Everyone took their position and filled their specific part in the battle. They had confidence and courage to face their enemies and see the victory. That is how Father wants the church to be, singled-minded, focused on hearing from Father, and moving out with confidence.

We all have a part to play in the church and Father's plan.

- ❖ You have a place in Abba's heart, a place in this world, a place in His family, and a place in the Kingdom. You are important!
- ❖ So, shame off you! Stop beating up on yourself, worrying about the future, feeling sorry for yourself, living less loved, thinking less of yourself, controlling your life, or holding back in fear.
- ❖ It is time to take that next step of faith into Father's plan for your life, into that wild, adventuresome, romantic life that we were born to live! We need to take our place in His plan and possess our inheritance. There are places for you to possess!
- ❖ We do this as part of the "assembly," the body of Christ.
- ❖ When we come together corporately, we *supplement* and *complement* each other. To *complement* means to strengthen or add to something that already exists. To *supplement* means to bring elements together and create something new. Just as "iron sharpens iron," when we join hands together in the body, we build and strengthen others and they I tern strengthen and build us up.
- ❖ Each one of us has different talents, anointings, and gifts, and some of us are arms, some hands, and some legs that work together as one new man, one body of Messiah.
- ❖ *The body of Christ must be founded on His love.*

What would a church founded on the Father's Love look like?

Seven areas for love to "break in" and take over:

1) **Community** - This is more than just fellowship. Here *every person at every level is loved and feels loved.* To accomplish that, each person needs to have their heart healed and have their identity and significance in Father as a son or daughter. We must feel secure in His love and comfortable with whom we are. Each person must find their place, and the leadership has to be more committed to serving others than to their position. People are not *competing* with each another; they are *completing* one another.

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- 2) **Relationship** – This is the *bond that holds the community together*. It must be built on transparency. First you must discover who you really are, and then you must be open to disclosure. We are talking about "real-ationships." The leadership must embrace these relationships and be willing to offer themselves to the community. All must realize that we are all broken and need our hearts healed.
- 3) **Nurture** – *This is foundational to bonding and becoming a real health family*. All members must be willing to nurture and demonstrate storge' love. We reach out and pursue others with His love and become a harvesting church to those who are lost.
- 4) **Honor** – This grows as the nurturing aspects begin to take off. *We value others because of what Christ has done for us*. We freely give honor to others even if they differ from us. This enables rich relationships to develop. Honor becomes a gift that freely flows from us to others.
- 5) **Redemptions** – This brings healing to the broken, gathering to the scattered, and hope to the lost. Nothing will be wasted. We pick up all of the pieces in a person's life and make something beautiful from them.
- 6) **Intimacy** – This is a continual fulfillment of the Great Commandment. As we realize the love of Father, it helps us love our self and others. It is the only way to fruitfulness. We live in the supernatural life that Christ lived. His love for us overflows to others. Our intimacy with Father will allow us to love others.
- 7) **Overflow** – With the whole congregation receiving His love and living in intimacy, we have love to give away. We begin living in the overflow of love spilling out to our family, relatives, community, work place, city, state, nation, and world. *It becomes natural to receive love and give it away*. Giving becomes a way of life because all our needs are being met by our Father. Trust in His love allows us to step out with boldness and confidence and experience the supernatural. Like Sid Roth says, "Welcome to my world where it's naturally supernatural."

Well, every great story has a good ending He is waiting at the alter for us to join Him. Christ has already gone before us to prepare all the places for us to start walking into right now!