

SERMON, AGAPE!!!!

Greeting time.....WORD???....turn to First John....but FIRST!

Family Time-Updates-Questions?: Talk with any of our Shepherds

Why the NAME Shepherd? BTW, their faces are online like at the post office ☺

GREAT NEWS...Through your kind and generous giving combined with our fundraiser action, we have just made another payment on our FIRST mortgage and reduced our principle balance on this church property to **\$399,309.33** Thank YOU JESUS!!!!!!-**REMEMBER WE HAVE TWO PROPERTIES ☺**

ONLY LITTLE OVER TWO MONTHS OLD HERE...AND working on even more transparency...TODAY, Financial numbers in bulletin...Town Hall for questions also coming IN MONTH OR SO...Youth rocking...Children's ministry amazing...Men's off and running...Women's coming AND it's still winter ☺
ANY of our Shepherd TEAM can answer your questions...Thank you Jesus!!!!

SO FAR WE HAVE LEARNED IN THIS BOOK

1. **The Apostle John, along with all the apostles and Jesus** find JOY in ALL believers finding fellowship (Koinonia) with God and with other believers.
2. **WE discovered even as believers** who have eternal life as a gift, WE ALL ARE A WORK IN PROGRESS in becoming Disciples of Jesus...Cross bearing is hard work
3. **The secret to Koinonia with God and others is AGAPE** (a Choice, not feeling)
4. **The other secret to Koinonia** is ABIDING in Christ through the Holy Spirit

1John 2:3 By this we **know** (Gk. Ginosko) that we have come to **know** (Gk. Ginosko) **Him**, (Jesus the propitiation of our sins) **if we keep His commandments**. (See 1 John 3:23) ⁴ The one who says, "I have come to **know** (Gk. Ginosko) **Him**," and does **not keep His commandments**, is a liar, and the truth is not in **him**; ⁵ but whoever **keeps His word**, in **him** the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we **know** that we are **in Him**: ⁶ the one who says he **abides** (Gk. Meno=dwell, stay, remain) **in Him** ought himself to walk in the same manner as **He** walked. (Loving others the way Jesus loves you) ⁷ Beloved, I am not writing a **new commandment to you**, but an **old commandment** which **you** have had from the beginning; the **old commandment** is the word which **you** have heard. ⁸ On the other hand, I am writing a **new commandment to you**, which is **true in Him and in you**, because the **darkness is passing away** and the **true Light is already shining**. ⁹ The **one** who says he is in the **Light** and yet **hates his brother** is in the **darkness until now**. ¹⁰ The **one** who **loves his brother** **abides** (Gk. Meno) in the **Light** and there is no cause for stumbling in **him**. ¹¹ **But the one who hates his brother** is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does **not know** (Gk. Oida) **where he is going** because the **darkness** has blinded **his eyes**.

Today, its time to take the blinders off for each of us
Heart to Heart??? ☺

Hear is why I'm parking us here, because John and Jesus take this "Agape" thing for believers REAL serious!!!...This is where we are headed...

1John 3:23 This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, **and love one another**, just as He commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. **We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.**

Look at fruit of the Spirit and the connection between the FRUIT of the HOLY SPIRIT, THE FRUIT OF JESUS in the VINE (John 15) and the definition of 1 Cor. 13

So Let's get PRACTICAL about AGAPE LOVE!

AGAPE vs HATE EXAMPLES.....outside and INSIDE the church.

LOVING OTHERS *outside* the church is our source of Jesus **LIGHT** to non-believers

LOVING ONE ANOTHER *inside* the church is the Key to fellowship or **Koinonia** with God and other believers **AND therefore LOVING like Jesus to ALL PEOPLE is a NON-NEGOTIABLE**

GOD'S SOLUTION TO CONFLICT, GOSSIP AND HATE from His Children:

Rom. 12:14 *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. ¹⁷ Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ **If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.** ¹⁹ Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

The cost of anger and unforgiveness to yourself is the cancer it becomes if you don't forgive your brother from your heart...YOU will be the one heaping hot coals on your OWN HEAD!

Jesus taught this right after His teaching on Matt. 18...The agape process of reconciliation within believers in the church for "Conflict Resolution"

Matt. 18:23 *"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ "When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ "But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. ²⁶ "So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him,*

saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.'²⁷ "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt."²⁸ "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.'²⁹ "So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.'³⁰ "But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed.³¹ "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened.³² "Then summoning him, his lord *said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.³³ 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?'³⁴ "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.³⁵ "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

The Lord's Prayer teaches us that God forgives as we forgive...You know it...pray it with me now.....

Forgiveness is the key to Koinonia with other believers and with God Himself

In the sermon on the mount Jesus taught the following...

Matt. 5:38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.'³⁹ "But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.⁴⁰ "If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also.⁴¹ "Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two.⁴² "Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, '**You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.**'⁴⁴ "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ **so that** you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.⁴⁶ "For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax

collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ “If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Look at 1 John 2:4-5 AGAIN!

⁴ The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; ⁵ but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected.

WATCH THIS: Hate...Keep on your guard, because it is out of control in our world and in our churches.....

POINT: ASSUME YOU are the problem in conflict or at least have a part in it!