



LOVE OF THE SAINTS

Jesus told his disciples during the last supper that the world will know who the disciples are by the love that they show one for another.

John 13:33-35

33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you.

34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Last week we discussed salvation by grace, whereas this week we will see that the world will know us by the love that we show for each other.

The love mentioned here in John 13 is the Greek word *agape* which Strong's Concordance describes:

25 **agapao** perh. from **agan** (much); to love (in a social or moral sense): —(be-) love (-ed).

26 **agape** from 25; love, i.e. *affection* or *benevolence*; spec. (plur.) *a love-feast*:— (feast of) charity ([-ably]), dear, love.

As you can see this is not the love that the world commonly thinks of love. The world looks at love to mean lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, along with fulfilling all of the lusts of the flesh. This love is an affectionate love for each other where we portray a real caring

for each other. This is a love that will last a lifetime, whereas the worldly definition of love only lasts for a season.

The love that Jesus was describing was a caring, nurturing love that the world will see through your actions. This is the work that James describes.

James 2:14-26

14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

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23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

This shows the caring love that the saints have one for another. It also shows how they care one for another. This is not the carnal love of the world, but the love that the world sees when the church helps those in need.

Sorry for such a short sermon this week, but I have not been feeling too well.

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