

# LOVE OR CHARITY

2Pet 1:7

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. It is difficult to know just how to approach subject The word "Love" is much misused and misunderstood in our conversation today.
- B. Webster defines as Christian love: Benevolent goodwill toward or love of humanity - Generosity and helpfulness esp. toward the needy or suffering
- C. There are three words translated love from the Greek
  - 1. THELO - involves simply desire Mk 12:38
  - 2. PHILEO - involves our affections, the root from which comes brotherly kindness. Never used in a command to love God, is used of Christ for disciple Jhn 20:2
  - 3. AGAPAO (verb) AGAPE (noun) - Is much more extensive in its range, it describes our love for God and for all men 2Pet 1:7
- D. Love can be known only from the action it prompts

## DISCUSSION:

### I. THE USE OF AGAPAO (LOVE) IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- A. Agapao translated charity 27 times in K.J.V.
  - 1. Used to describe the attitude of God: toward His Son Jhn 17:26; the human race Jhn 3:16; Rom 5:8; those who believe in Christ Jhn 14:21
  - 2. To convey God's will to his children concerning their attitude: toward one another Jhn 13:34; all men 1Thess 3:12; To express the essential nature of God 1Jhn 4:8
- B. This term distinguished from other two in that it represents a demonstrated good will toward someone undeserving. Not drawn out by excellence of its object. It loves the unlovable 1Cor 13 is a good exposition of this kind of love (**1Cor 12:31 - a more excellent way**)
- C. The other terms involve a drawing power of the object for them to exist i.e. desire or affection

### II. TWO PRIMARY OBJECTS OF THIS LOVE

- A. Deity - encompasses God, Christ, & Holy Spirit
  - 1. God Matt 22: 37 TEST: I listen and talk to ones I love, do I listen and talk to God?
  - 2. Jesus 1Cor 16:22 TEST: We want to be with those we love and do what they ask; Assembly Matt 18:20; "Keep my commandments" Jhn 14:15
  - 3. Holy Spirit - (Comforter) TEST: Do not speak against ones we love, trust in them: Mk 3:29; Jhn 16:13,14
- B. Mankind -- encompasses brethren, neighbors, enemies
  - 1. The brethren Jhn 13:34,35 (Test = "by this")

- a. Love causes to forgive Eph 4: 32
- b. Love helps in time of need Jas 2:14-17
- c. Can't love God and hate brother 1Jhn 4:20, 21
- 2. Neighbor Matt 22:39 (How can I test this love)
  - a. Good Samaritan "WHO" Lk 10:29 application v.37
  - b. No chore to love the whole world; my real problem is my neighbor next door. Rom 13:10
- 3. Enemies Matt 5:44 (How do I test this love)
  - a. Pray for; do good; win to Christ Rom 12:20,21
  - b. Most difficult, but must be done

### III. LOVE CAN BE MISPLACED

- A. Many are in love with themselves 2Tim 3:2; Matt 16:24
- B. Lovers of pleasure 2Tim 3:4 - We are a pleasure oriented society Note Lk 8:14
- C. Love of money 1Tim 6:10
  - 1. Rich ruler turned away Matt 19:16-22
  - 2. Rich fool thought all was well Lk 2:16-21
  - 3. Caused Ananias & Sapphira to lie Acts 5:1-11
- D. Love of the world 2Tim 4:10; 1Jhn 2:15-17
- E. Love of preeminence 3Jhn 9 (Pharisees Matt 23:6)
- F. Love the praises of men Jhn 12:42; Gal 1:10

### IV. SOME MISCONCEPTIONS OF BIBLE LOVE

- A. Some think love nullifies or takes place of obedience
  - 1. Joseph Fletcher, professor of Ethics at Cambridge Episcopal Theological School, favors amending the Ten commandments to read: Thou shalt not covet; kill; commit adultery ordinarily." (Death of a Nation p.96)
  - 2. He says "mercy killing" is all right; Fornication: by mental patients justify abortion; "Free sex" if two people love each other
  - 3. Say if we love God, He overlooks lack of obedience
  - 4. Obey to show love for Him Jhn 14:15; 1Jhn 2:5
- B. Some think that love will not allow chastisement
  - 1. Parents, elders, preachers sometimes accused of lacking love because they reprove and rebuke
  - 2. True love necessitates chastisement
    - a. This is one way to show real love Heb 12:6
    - b. Parents chasten because of love Prov 13: 24
  - 3. Reprove, rebuke, exhort 2Tim 4:1-3; but speak in love Eph 4:15
  - 4. Flatterer & compromiser are ones lacking in love

## CONCLUSION:

- A. Our love for the Lord or the lack of it is shown in the attitude we have toward the commands of Christ.
- B. This is the love of God that we keep his commandments and His commandments are not grievous 1Jhn 5:3 (burdensome NAS95)