

The Call to Love

The Great Commission - Session Four - page 1

What chapter in the Bible is called the Faith Chapter?

What chapter in the Bible is called the Love Chapter?

Love and the Great Commission

While Jesus was teaching on the Great Commission, He asked Peter a very important question; (John 21:15-17) *So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. (16) He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. (17) He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.*

After Peter affirmed that he loved Jesus, Jesus went on with His teachings about the kingdom of God. Why did Jesus stop and ask that question? The reason is because the Call to Love the Lord is part of the Great Commission. How can we accomplish the will of God in our lives if we do not really love Him? How can we accomplish the work that God has for us to do if we do not really love Him?

We studied the first lesson in the Great Commission - The Call to Believe. This Call is so important that later in the Bible we see a whole chapter devoted to Faith, Hebrews 11, The Faith Chapter. The Call to Love is so important that there is a whole chapter devoted to it, 1 Corinthians 13, The Love Chapter.

What is Love?

Love is the Greatest Commandment; (Mark 12:30-31) *And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. (31) And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.*

Love is the fulfilling of the law; (Romans 13:10) *Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*

Love is the greatest gift; (1 Corinthians 13:13,NKJV) *And now abides faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

We Need To:

Keep the love of God in our hearts; (Jude 21) *Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*

Be rooted and grounded in love; (Ephesians 3:17-19) *That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, (18) May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; (19) And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

Walk in love; (Ephesians 5:2) *And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*

Put on love; (Colossians 3:14,NKJV) *And above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.*

And because God is love, we must dwell in love if we want to be a part of His kingdom; (1 John 4:16) *And we have known and believed the love that God has to us. God is love; and he that dwells in love dwells in God, and God in him.*

The Call to Love

The Great Commission - Session Four - page 2

While Jesus was teaching on the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God, He asked the question, “Do you love me?” If we do not love Him then we will not be able to do His will in our lives. However, if we love Him, then it will be easy to do His will.

© 2010 Mark J. Starin