



*RCC Phoenix – 7.5.20 – (Love Series: Week 1) Love is...*

Today we start a series on the Biblical principle of \_\_\_\_\_.

One major goal at Roots Community Church is to help people remove \_\_\_\_\_ and un-Biblical teaching from our own lives.

\_\_\_\_\_ is harder than learning.

If an incorrect belief has become a pillar that we have built our life on, it can be difficult to remove because anything built on top of that incorrect belief can \_\_\_\_\_.

We have to do the \_\_\_\_\_ work of removing those pillars of incorrect beliefs and replace them with the truth even if we experience some loss.

It may be momentarily disheartening but if things do collapse, those efforts were \_\_\_\_\_ anyways.

We know that God will use our \_\_\_\_\_ and our \_\_\_\_\_ to minister to others.

Our culture has \_\_\_\_\_ the truth about love.

To many people, love is simply a \_\_\_\_\_.

Our culture worships \_\_\_\_\_ while rejecting God's Word.

\_\_\_\_\_ = Rules

\_\_\_\_\_ = Relationship

Being a Believer in Christ is about having a \_\_\_\_\_ with Him.

When we say believing in Jesus & becoming His disciple is about relationship, we don't mean a transactional, business or religious obligation relationship. We mean having a true and \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with our Saviour & Creator.

Jesus greatest commandment was to \_\_\_\_\_ God with everything we have and \_\_\_\_\_ people as ourselves.

How do we accomplish that without truly understanding love?

1. Love is the \_\_\_\_\_ ethic

Paul wrote 2 letters to the church in \_\_\_\_\_.

The city of Corinth was originally developed by Greece & existed several hundred years before Christ. It was a dual port city meaning it had sea ports on both the east and west sides of the city.

Corinth was eventually overthrown and torched around 148 BC but was occupied and rebuilt by the Roman General Julius Caesar in 44 BC. By 27 BC it was the capitol city of a Roman province.

Easton's Bible Dictionary notes the following:

The city of Corinth was noted for its wealth, and for the luxurious and immoral and vicious habits of the people. It had a large mixed \_\_\_\_\_ of Greeks, Romans and Jews.

Paul lived in Corinth for \_\_\_\_\_ so he had first hand knowledge of how this culture operated.

### 1 Corinthians 12:27-31 NLT

"All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it. Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church: first are apostles, second are prophets, third are teachers, then those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who can help others, those who have the gift of leadership, those who speak in unknown languages. Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles? Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not! So you should earnestly desire the most helpful gifts. But now let me show you a way of life that is best of all."

Paul reminds the entire church, not everyone has the same \_\_\_\_\_. Not everyone can play the same role. No one person has all of these attributes or gifts. It is God's plan for every individual to play their \_\_\_\_\_ role in the body of Christ.

### 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 NLT

"If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing."

Paul realized the people of Corinth had a natural tendency to use their \_\_\_\_\_ as a source for their identity.

Without love we are \_\_\_\_\_, we are merely noise & we can't gain anything.

2. Love is a \_\_\_\_\_

Often times people who are not believers in Christ will ask the question, "Why doesn't God just \_\_\_\_\_ everyone believe in Him?"

If He did this we would have a world that would not know love.

There can be no love without \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Galatians 5:13-15 NLT**

“For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another.”

Here Paul sets out a clear choice: Use our \_\_\_\_\_ to satisfy our sinful nature or server others.

### **Galatians 5:16-18 NLT**

“So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

### **Galatians 5:22-23 NLT**

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!”

When the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ our lives we will have the ability to choose serving others in love instead of trying to satisfy our sinful nature.

The first mentioned fruit of the Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_.

This is further evidence that love is not a feeling but an act of \_\_\_\_\_.

Our own will consistently chooses to satisfy our own sinful desires but with the strength of the Holy Spirit we can \_\_\_\_\_ love.

True love grows from our faith in \_\_\_\_\_ and His Spirit living inside us.

3. Love is \_\_\_\_\_ Important

We can’t know true love \_\_\_\_\_ God.

### **1 John 4:7-8 NLT**

“Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

If Biblical love is \_\_\_\_\_ from our lives it is because we don’t know God.