

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sermon: No Other Gospel Part 4

The Essential Doctrine of Love

Scripture Text: Matthew 22:34–40

02/03/2019

The Weather Vane

One day C. H. Spurgeon was walking through the English countryside with a friend. As they strolled along, the evangelist noticed a barn with a weather vane on its roof. At the top of the vane were these words: “GOD IS LOVE.” Spurgeon remarked to his companion that he thought this was a rather inappropriate place for such a message. “Weather vanes are changeable,” he said, “but God’s love is constant.”

“I don’t agree with you about those words, Charles,” replied to his friend. “You misunderstood the meaning. That sign is indicating a truth: Regardless of which way the wind blows, God is love.”

Matthew 22:34–40 (NKJV) 34 But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” 37 Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

As we continue in our series on the essential doctrine (teachings) of our faith, the next one in line was not easy to choose.

I wanted to have some sense of priority to the list and I was trying to decide between “the doctrine of faith, the doctrine of the scriptures and decided on the doctrine of love.

Our most essential doctrine we discussed last week is the doctrine that God is God. Part of the justification for that is that all things emanate from God. If we look a litter deeper, we will see that all things emanate from the LOVE of God. Everything that God has done for man from creation to Salvation is because of God’s LOVE.

As you can imagine you can understand that there is so much that can be said about Gods love that we would not have time to cover the all.

When looking up love in Webster there are about 20 different entries to define it.

There are four unique forms of love are found in the Bible.

<https://www.thoughtco.com/types-of-love-in-the-bible-700177>

They are communicated through four Greek words:

1. Eros - Romantic love
2. Storge - Family love, such as the love of a parent towards offspring and vice versa.
(Word is not in MW)
3. Philia - Brotherly love, Friendship
4. Agape - God's divine love
<https://www.gotquestions.org/agape-love.html>

Agape love is the love of the series. I believe that only God and Christ can exhibit true agape love. I know I have failed many, many times.

I am reminded of Jonah. Here was a man that eventually did the right thing, warn Nineveh. He did it for the right reason, God commanded him to do it. But he did it with the wrong attitude, absent of agape love.

Jonah 4:1–3 (NKJV) 1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. 2 So he prayed to the Lord, and said, “Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm. 3 Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!”

We may start out with an attitude of agape love but as soon as the intended recipient of that love does something we question or do not like, agape goes out of the window.

*Romans 5:8 (NKJV) 8 But God demonstrates **His own love toward us**, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

*1 John 4:10–11 (NKJV) 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that **He loved us** and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

Now we all are willing to accept God’s agape love but we fail to realize that in order to fully receive God’s agape love we have to be willing to demonstrate our agape love toward God, Christ and others.

1. Agape love toward God
37 Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”
2. Agape love toward Christ
John 14:15 (NKJV) 15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.
3. Agape love to our brothers and sisters.
John 15:12 (NKJV) 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (John 13:34, 35, 15:17)
4. Agape love toward our neighbor.

38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Leviticus 19:34, Good Samaritan, Luke 10:33-37)

As for loving our neighbors we can refer to 1 Corinthians 13th chapter (love chapter)
1 John 4:7–8 (NKJV) 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

I think I can safely say that not only God is God, but God is also Love
1 John 4: 11 (NKJV) 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
We can see the doctrine of love all through these verses.

Now so I don't get to far off track I need to remind myself that this series is about doctrine that is deemed essential to our faith and our salvation. This is not to be confused with doctrine stemming from traditions of men or even the minds of men.

The question may be asked, “What makes a doctrine “essential”.
Essential - of the utmost importance; absolutely necessary; extremely important.
synonyms: necessary, key, vital, indispensable, needed, required, called for, requisite, important, all-important.

Too often the classification of what is “essential” is a subjective decision”. I hope to remove the subjectivity and replace it with scriptural confirmation.

To me the first and most basic reason to deem something essential is to recognize the teaching as”

1. A command from God or from Christ.
2. Is the doctrine taught by the Apostles, Gospel? (*Galatians 1:8*)
 - a. **As the Gospel of God** (*Romans 1:1, 1 Thess 2:2, 8,9, 1 Pet 2:17*)

The good news (Gospel) comes from God. It is all His creation and His plan for salvation of man He devised before the foundation of the world.
Acts 2:23 (NKJV) 23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; (John 3:16)

<https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-1-romans-gospel-god-romans-11-introduction>

This is just part of the Good News (Gospel of God)

- b. **As the Gospel of Jesus Christ** - The good news about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, of which the 4 gospels are written records¹ (*Mark 1:1*)

In net form the good news Gospel of Jesus Christ is that He left His home in glory sent by God to be born of a woman to redeem those under the law that they might receive adoptions as sons. (*Galatians 4:4*)

Romans 10:9 (NKJV) 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

John 1:12 (NKJV) 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

As we look at these points related to the “Gospel of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ we can see how they are all woven together as exemplified in this verse.

1 John 5:11 (NKJV) 11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

All of the above are taught in the Gospel (good news) of God or of Jesus Christ. This is the Gospel taught by the Apostles as recorded in the scriptures. Besides these there is no other Gospel.

I fear I may be taxing your attention span so I will end hear in hopes I said enough to support the essential doctrine of Love taught by God, Jesus and the Apostles.

Message Scriptures: **Matthew 22:34–40**, *Romans 5:8*, *1 John 4:10–11*, *John 14:15*, *John 15:12*, *John 13:34*, *35*, *15:17*, *1 John 4:7–8*, *1 John 4: 11*, *Galatians 1:8*, *Romans 1:1*, *1 Thess 2:2*, *8,9*, *1 Pet 2:17*, *Acts 2:23*, *John 3:16*, *Mark 1:1*, *Galatians 4:4*, *Romans 10:9*, *John 1:12*, *1 John 5:11*, *1 Corinthians 13th*

End.

¹ MacArthur, J., Jr. (Ed.). (1997). [*The MacArthur Study Bible*](#) (electronic ed., p. 1456). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.