

Mother of God Community
Sunday Night Prayer Meeting
August 11, 2013
Love Is ...
Jessica Montgomery

How this came about... God said teach on love... because when you teach you've got to learn it yourself! (mentioned difficulties with work, parents, child.)

Something looming that is burdening you, or just that sense of anxiety or hurt that you cannot shake.

I just figured I could use some time in God's Word as all these things were going on in and around my life. What came about was more than I could have hope for. I was changed, and I experienced some real breakthroughs.

God's love for me is unmoved by my actions, by circumstances or by God Himself. God is Love. God's identity never changes. When you read or hear the word God, you should immediately think Love. (Romans 8:35-39)

Circumstances cannot separate us from Love. And circumstances cannot bring us closer to Love. The love of God is unchanging, and it is always with us. And He wants our love to be the same - unchanging. Do you often think, "When this happens, then I will be happy." I fall for that trap all the time! The list goes on and on. This feels very real. We can be quite convinced that this particular change would unlock the key to our happiness. But, as real as our emotions and our thoughts are to us, I am convinced - and I believe you are, too - that *God's Word is the ultimate truth, and it says nothing shall separate us.*

1 John 4:18 - There is no fear in love... The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

There is no fear in Love. When do you find it difficult to love? What is hindering you from loving totally and completely, holding nothing back? Probably fear. There are so many types and varieties of fear! Fear that people will reject me. Fear that God will not provide. Fear that I am not good enough. Fear that I am not doing enough. Fear that I will look bad. Fear of the future. Fear from the past.

So often, we think that a circumstance or a person is preventing us from loving. But the real reason is fear. Brothers and sisters, I pray that this will become a revelation for you as it has been for me. There is no fear in love! No fear of anything! No fear of anyone! And how we get there is through Perfect Love - His name is Abba, Father, the One who gave us His Son, to purchase us at a price, to bring us into full covenant with Him. We are heirs.

We are heirs of the promise. We are the righteousness of God. We are God's ambassadors. (2 Corinthians 5:21) Do heirs of the Creator of the Universe, the Redeemer of mankind, have any reason to fear? No! A thousand times no!

Does being a Christians carry with it many obligations?

Romans 13:10 - Love is the fulfillment of the Law. Jesus also said in John 15:17 - This is my command: Love each other. Being a Christian may not be easy, but it is simple. Jesus tells us that when we make Love our top priority each day, we are fulfilling the law.

What about when we do all the things we feel obligated to do, but fail to love? Oh, this strikes such a cord with me. In Mark 7:13, Jesus said that we "nullify the word of God." We make God's Word of no value! We are called to be God's ambassadors, and yet we could be the very ones that are making God's word of no value by going around busy, busy, busy, but unloving, harsh, short-tempered and full of contempt for other people.

Maybe it's time to cut a few things out of your schedule, and insert some time studying the Word of God, so that you are full of Love and not full of yourself! I can be so full of a lot of things besides God! But the truth sets me free, and I wouldn't have it any other way. I want God to take the scales off my eyes and make me a true disciple, not just a spectator observing someone else's life or wishing my life were different. I want to fulfill

Mother of God Community
Sunday Night Prayer Meeting
August 11, 2013
Love Is ...
Jessica Montgomery

God's calling and purpose for my life, and somewhere in the process some weeds have to be pulled, and it might not be comfortable.

Ok, so Love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is THE most important thing about our life.

Now, why do we love others? Ultimately, it is for no other reason than because we want to honor God. Not to bring about a desired result, but because it honors God.

So, fear is a major barrier to love. Another barrier to love is trying to get our needs met. God likes hard work. The Book of Proverbs is full of examples of that - how the sluggard is poor and the one who works diligently is rewarded. But is your *striving* getting in the way of your love walk?

Here are a few questions you might ask yourself:

- Are you honoring God with the first-fruits of your income and acknowledging His Lordship over your income and every blessing?
- Do you pray about your wants and needs or take it upon yourself to find a way to get them met?

- Matthew 6 verse 31-33
- Psalm 37:4 - Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.
- Psalm 103:5 - God satisfies your desires with good things.

God is deeply interested in not only meeting your needs, but fulfilling your desires. What are your desires? Is it something material? Is it friendship? Is it a particular vocation?

I want to suggest to you tonight that one of the reasons you may have a hard time loving others is that you are striving to meet your own needs or fulfill your own desires, instead of releasing those to the Lord. Again, yes, we should work hard at whatever we do, but not so we can get our needs met; rather, so we can honor God. Your days - no matter where they are spent - are intended to be as servants of God. Doing an excellent job, and seeking opportunities to share the love of God with other people. We live for the glory of God. We live for others.

We need to fully entrust our needs and our desires to God.

I am praying for God to imprint these truths in my being, because on my own I really cannot change. So I regularly call to mind these truths from God's Word, reminding myself and praying for His grace to keep me in His Word. Because ultimately, God wants the very best for me, so there is nothing I think or believe or feel that is worth holding onto if it is contrary to His Word. God is Love, so I exhort you, too, to begin affirming that there is no fear in Love, and trusting Him with today's desires of your heart. These 2 principles will set you free to love others in a radical new way.

I want to live:
unashamed
fearless
bold