

October 2 2016

## **Scripture Lesson**

*Galatians 5:22-6:10*

*John 15:9-17*

### **Sermon** *It's All About Love*

In the scripture reading this morning, the different fruits of the spirit were listed in the passage from Galatians. I decided that love would be a good one to talk about today. It is on the other side of the spectrum from last week's message about hellfire and brimstone. So no standing on a stump or shaking a finger at you today. There are all kinds of love. Do you remember the first time that your spouse said I love you? Hopefully in your childhood home love was apparent, even if it wasn't said out loud. Those of us who have had pets know the love we have for them and the heartache when they can no longer be with us. Did you have a best friend all through your school years? Are they still your best friend? When did you first realize and accept God's love for you?

Love is mentioned 538 times in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, 317 in the Old Testament and 221 times in the New Testament. That is a lot of times. What kinds of love are mentioned in the Bible? Well, thanks to today's technology, you can just google it and find out.

I found a blog by Pastor Jack Wellman who lists the 10 top Bible verses on love and I agree with most of the scripture verses that he picked. So thanks to Pastor Jack Wellman, here are some of the Bible verses about love.

John 3:16 – For God So Loved the World

“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life.” This could be the most important Bible verse about love because it displays a sacrificial love, a life-giving love, which is unequalled and unmatched in the entire world.

John 15:13- Greater Love Has No Man

“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.” This verse could represent the many veterans that are serving and have served their countries over the years. Many of them did give their lives to defend what we often take for granted. The best example of this would be Jesus dying on the cross for all humankind.

Matthew 5:43-45 – Love Your Enemies

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven for He makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”

This one is a hard one for us to swallow. How can we love our enemies, only with the help of the Holy Spirit is it possible. God loves all of us and we need to do our best to do the same.

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:4-13 – Love is Unselfish

“Love is patient, love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease, as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I as a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly; but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”

Chapter 13 may be the greatest chapter on love in the entire Bible. It is telling us that love is patient with people and circumstances, love is kind to people and animals. These verses are quite often read at weddings with hopes that the husband and wife will remember them as they travel through their married life. However, these verses would be good for all of us to remember as we go on life’s journey.

Mark 12:30-31 – Love Your Neighbor as Your Self

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. ‘The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” It is saying that we should love one another “just as we are” or in the same manner that Christ loves us.

John 14:15 – If You Love Me, Obey My Commandments

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” I thought this was a different one to pick but Pastor Wellman explained why he picked it very well. He says that we display our love for others when they ask us to do something and we do it willingly because we love them. If we truly love Jesus, why wouldn’t we want to please Him by obeying what He has told us to do?

These are some of the verses that Pastor Wellman picked.

There are many more verses in the Bible and there may be some that are more important to you. Take some time in the coming week to look for Bible verses that talk about love and find the one that means the most to you.

For me the most important is Mark 12:30-31 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your

strength. 'The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

I would like to close with these verses from Romans 8:28, 37-39.

Romans 8:28, 37-39

"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God In Christ Jesus our Lord." Amen.