

What the World Needs Now Is...

Celebrating Love

Over the last several weeks we have examined the types of love necessary to make our most cherished relationships thrive in a world where so many of them are under attack. Let's review:

- 1 - Everlasting Love** – True love is always rooted in God's love which He demonstrated by dying on the cross for our sins.
- 2 - Forgiving Love** - In every relationship there will come a time where we will offend or be offended. Only forgiveness will break a destructive cycle in relationships.
- 3 - Serving Love** – We are never more like Jesus than when we are serving others.
- 4 - Persevering Love** – Relationships will only last when they are based on true love as outlined in 1 Cor. 13.
- 5 - Guarding Love** – We must always be sober and vigilant to guard our hearts against those things that will destroy our most cherished relationships.
- 6 - Renewing Love** – We must continually renew our commitment to God's instructions and to one another for relationships to be what they should be.

Relationships must be celebrated with ALL of our being if they are to remain vibrant and healthy.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Thessalonians 5:23**

Celebration at a Spiritual Level

- In Christ there is much to celebrate.
 - Our sins have been forgiven (Romans 8:1)
 - Our future is secure (John 5:24)
 - Our present circumstances are under the control of an All-powerful God that loves us and always desires what is best for our lives.

- There will always be limitations in relationships where both parties are not IN CHRIST. (2 Corinthians 6:14-16 NLT)
- ¹⁴ Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? ¹⁵ What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God.

Celebration at a Soul Level

- Celebrations at this level are based around a common purpose and desire in life. (Romans 12:1-2) **The Message**
"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you."
- When your dreams and desires are shaped by God and His Word, there will be plenty of spiritual fruit to celebrate.

Celebration at a Body Level

- The celebration of presence
 - To have quality time you must first have a quantity of time. (For relationships to happen, you must show up!)
 - You must have open and uplifting communication
 - Whatever the circumstance – Rejoice! **Philippians 4:4-7**
- The celebration of intimacy reserved for marriage. **Proverbs 5:15-23**
 - It is the fruit of the other celebrations.
 - It is best expressed in the context of a love that is secure and exclusive

"Don't hope, decide!"

What the World Needs Now Is...

Celebrating Love

Over the last several weeks we have examined the types of love necessary to make our most cherished relationships thrive in a world where so many of them are under attack. Let's review:

- 1 - _____ **Love** – True love is always rooted in _____ love which He demonstrated by dying on the cross for our sins.
- 2 - _____ **Love** - In every relationship there will come a time where we will _____ or be _____. Only forgiveness will break a destructive cycle in relationships.
- 3 - _____ **Love** – We are never more like _____ than when we are serving _____.
- 4 - _____ **Love** – Relationships will only last when they are based on _____ love as outlined in 1 Cor. 13.
- 5 - _____ **Love** – We must always be _____ and _____ to guard our hearts against those things that will destroy our most cherished relationships.
- 6 - _____ **Love** – We must continually renew our commitment to God's _____ and to one another for relationships to be what they _____ be.

Relationships must be _____ with ALL of our being if they are to remain vibrant and _____.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Thessalonians 5:23**

Celebration at a _____ Level

- _____ there is much to celebrate.
 - Our sins have been _____ (**Romans 8:1**)
 - Our future is _____ (**John 5:24**)
 - Our present circumstances are under the control of an _____ God that _____ us and always desires what is _____ for our lives.

- There will always be _____ in relationships where *both* parties are not *IN CHRIST*. (**2 Corinthians 6:14-16 NLT**)

¹⁴ Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? ¹⁵ What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what union can there be between God's temple and idols?

For we are the temple of the living God.

Celebration at a _____ Level

- Celebrations at this level are based around a common _____ and _____ in life.

(Romans 12:1-2) The Message

"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you."

- When your _____ and _____ are shaped by God and His Word, there will be plenty of spiritual _____ to celebrate.

Celebration at a _____ Level

- The celebration of _____
 - To have *quality* time you must first have a _____ of time. (*For relationships to happen, you must show up!*)
 - You must have open and uplifting _____
 - Whatever the circumstance – _____!
Philippians 4:4-7
- The celebration of _____ reserved for marriage.
Proverbs 5:15-23
 - It is the fruit of the _____ celebrations.
 - It is best expressed in the context of a love that is _____ and _____

"Don't _____, _____!"