The Necessity of Love

Today we celebrate God’s goodness toward us over the past 30 years. He has blessed us in many ways. If we want to continue to experience the blessing of God, we need to keep first things first. In the days ahead, the Lord will measure us not by our apparent success, but by our love. **Love is the one thing necessary.**

**1. Performances without love are *worthless***

A. *Supernatural* performances

Matthew 7:21-23; 24:24

B. *Sacrificial* performances

**2. Faith without love is not *saving***

A. We are saved by faith, *not by love*

B. Love is the *distinguishing mark* of faith

1 Peter 1:8-9

**3. Love without fruit is *empty***

A. Christian *character*

B. Christian *kindness*

1 John 3:16-18

**4. Love without God is *idolatrous***

Love as an abstract ideal is an idol. Biblical love comes to us from God (Romans 5:5-8)—

A. In the *death of Christ*

B. In the *Spirit of God*

**Conclusion –** God’s love and *our church*

**For Private Meditation or Family Discussion**

1. What was the most important or helpful thing you heard in the sermon?

2. What questions did the sermon raise in your mind?

3. How can you as an individual become more like Christ in His love (Galatians 5:16-17, 22-23)?

4. How can we as a church express the love of Christ (Colossians 3:12-17)—

To each other?

To the unsaved?

Back to God Himself?

For a penetrating, convicting, practical study of 1 Corinthians 13, I recommend Jonathan Edwards’s *Charity and Its Fruits* (Banner of Truth Trust).