

“Conquering Love”

Adapted by: Michael R. Hughes

Text: I Peter 4:7-10

Theme: To encourage us to love more.

Introduction:

1. The end of all things is at hand.
 - a. Probably refers to destruction of Jerusalem since Peter wrote to Jewish Christians that were scattered.
 - b. Produces a sense of anticipation.
2. Therefore - be of a sound mind - Pray
3. Fervent love is to be *above all things*.
 - a. Love has been overpreached by some as weak and spineless.
 - b. Peter's emphasis is on love that conquered him - John 1:15-19.

Discussion:

- I. Love covers a multitude of sins -v.8 - Proverbs 10:12.
 - A. Not by failure to recognize and label sin.
 1. True love is not blind to sin.
 - a. Jesus recognized sin in the lives of those he loved.
 - b. And he did not overlook sin - John 8.
 2. Love would help the sinner obtain forgiveness.
 - B. Love forgives.
 1. We should pray “forgive us as we forgive others” - Matthew 6:9-15.
 2. We are to forgive until seventy times seven - Matthew 18:21,22; cf. Luke 17:3.
 - C. Love avoids giving occasion for sin.
 1. Give none occasion for stumbling.

2. Romans 14.
 - a. Our own conduct.
 - b. We must not lay traps.
 - c. Divorce and remarriage
 - D. It rebukes with friendliness - Galatians 6:1.
- II. Love affords ungrudging hospitality - v.9.
- A. The Lord expects us to be hospitable - Matthew 25:35.
 - B. Some have entertained angels unaware - Hebrews 13:2.
 - C. Elders must have this quality - 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 2:8.
 - D. Doing so without grudging means not wishing we didn't have to [Joke - having buzzard (preacher) for dinner].
 - E. God loves a cheerful giver- II Corinthians 9:7.
- III. Love ministers - (serves) v.10.
- A. Each person possesses an ability (gift) to serve (all gifts are from God).
 1. The view of the world is that only some are "gifted."
 2. Cf. "gifted" programs at schools.
 - B. "By love serve one another" Galatians 5:13.
 1. Each using our particular gifts and abilities.
 2. Doctors, lawyers, carpenters, readers, etc.
 - C. As stewards of the manifold grace of God.
 1. A steward is one who has the goods of another entrusted to him.
 2. This means God's goodness is bestowed upon us to use to his glory.
 3. Every good and perfect gift comes from God - James 1:17

Conclusion:

1. Christianity is a religion of love
 - a. First is the love of God- John 3:16
 - b. Our love for God - Matthew 22:37; I John 3:3.
 - c. Love for brethren - John 13:35.
 - d. Love for neighbor - Matthew 22:39.
 - e. Must also love our enemies - Matthew 5:44.

2. Jesus set the example, John 13:34,35.

Invitation:

Bibliography:

From a sermon of this title by J.A. Thornton