

**1st John # 63**

**“What Love Is”**

*1st John 3:16; Romans 1:18-22; Luke 11:27-28; Ephesians 4:20-24*

**Grace is the genius plan of God to bless us; integrity is the character of God to guarantee His blessings and Bible doctrine is the revelation and explanation of His genius.**

**Biblical truth is the thinking of God in relation to the human race, so nothing is more important than knowing what God thinks, understanding how God operates and comprehending the basis for all of these things through His integrity.**

**Happiness is hearing and retaining the Word of God and life without learning truth is death.**

**God did not and could not create anything that was evil; everything God created in its initial stage was perfect and wonderful; therefore, if man sins he must do so from his own free-will.**

**When God created man, He created him with an independent free-will so he could exercise his free-will independently of God or he could choose the will of God for his life.**

**When God breathed the breath of life into man, immediately there were two co-existing factors on earth and they still co-exist—the sovereignty of God which always existed and the newly designed free-will of man and the only place where the sovereignty of God and the free-will of man can meet and be compatible is at the cross of Christ.**

**When man understands, believes and accepts the work of Jesus Christ on his behalf; from that point on he enters into the Christian life where the issue is always, ‘Am I doing the will of God?’**

**If we accept the teaching of the Word of God, we’ll come to receive the power of the Christian life and if we reject the teaching of the Word of God, we’ll come to live in the arrogance of self-justification, self-deception and self-absorption.**

**Love is the advanced spiritual life that God provided in virtue which is not dependent on emotion and since love isn’t dependent on emotion, it’s not dependent on lust.**

**If we fail to fulfill the principle that “Intimacy with God must come before intimacy with people”, we’ll become permanently distracted by people and those people will only make us very unhappy.**

**We don’t develop intimacy or love for God because of what He can do for us.**

**Need makes people dependent and dependence opens the door to frustration and disappointment and a very miserable life with no spiritual problem-solving capabilities.**

**Fear brings insecurity which brings other problems and fear sees the problem of love as need but faith sees the problem of love as resolved already by God.**

**Our only real need as believers is intimacy with God which replaces our desire to have intimacy with people.**

**God is sovereign so His love is self-motivated and compatible with His decrees and all His other decisions; past, present and future so our love as a fruit of the Spirit is self-motivated and therefore not contingent on a response.**

**Any time we're unhappy in what the world calls our love life, it's because it's not a true life of love.**

**God is infinitely more important in our relationships with people than people are important in our relationships with people; therefore, infinitely more benefits come to us from being loved by God than being loved by people, so our capacity to love is based on the fact that God loved us first!**