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• 1. In the Great Commission, Jesus wanted His apostles to make disciples...

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

- a. A disciple is a learner, a follower, an adherent
- b. Jesus wants us to learn from Him
- "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matt.11:28-30)

2. What does Jesus expect of us...?

a. Discipleship involves many things

b. But especially that we love

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:5-8)

• 3. But one might ask...

a. What are we to love?

b. How can we best manifest our love?

• In this lesson, "The Three Loves Of A Disciple", let's begin with...

1. Jesus taught we should love God

Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' (Matthew 22:37)

 2. His disciple John wrote that loving God must also mean loving His Son

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. (1 John 5:1)

 3. Jesus expressed the same thought as John, but conversely

He who hates me hates my Father as well. (John 15:23)

 --A disciple of Jesus is one who loves both the Father and the Son

- 1. Jesus made this love a mark of true discipleship
- "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

(John 13:34-35)

2. John made it a sign of spiritual life

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. (1 John 3:14)

Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him. (1 John 2:9-11)

-- A disciple of Jesus is one who loves his fellow disciples

1. God the Father certainly loved the lost

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

• 2. Jesus likewise had compassion for the lost......

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

(Matt. 9:35-38)

3. Paul had great concern for the lost

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. (Romans 10:1)

Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. (1 Cor. 9:19-22)

 -- A disciple of Jesus is one loves those who are lost in sin

Disciples also love their families, even their enemies.
 These can be included in either the brethren or the lost.

II. THE THREE LOVES DEMONSTRATED

- 1. Love is demonstrated or shown by a disciple in three ways:
- 1) through worship.
- 2) through fellowship.
- 3) through evangelism.
- Let's look at these three areas that a disciple of Jesus needs to demonstrate:

1. This is how we can best demonstrate our love for God

- 2. Assuming that our worship is in harmony with what Jesus revealed
- a. That it is in Spirit and truth

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." (John 4:23-24)

- 2. Assuming that our worship is in harmony with what Jesus revealed
- b. That it includes keeping His commandments
- If you love me, you will obey what I command.

 Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is
 the one who loves me. He who loves me will be
 loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show
 myself to him." (John 14:15,21)

- 3. We are to worship God in "2" ways:
- a. Through our public worship

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:25)

- 3. We are to worship God in two ways:
- b. Through our private devotions

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (Matthew 6:6)

 -- Disciples demonstrate love for God through public worship and private devotion

- 1. This is how we best demonstrate our love for the brethren
- 2. By not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Heb.10:24-25)

 3. We are to fellowship with one another in two ways:

a. By coming together as a church, for the Lord's Supper and other means of edification

What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church. (1 Corinthians 14:26)

-- Disciples demonstrate love for brethren through fellowship in church and home

1. There is no better way to show love for the lost

2. Jesus manifested His compassion in this way

a. By teaching the lost

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (Matt. 9:35-36)

b. By calling for prayer in behalf of the lost

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:37-38)

c. By developing and sending forth laborers

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' (Matthew 10:1,5-7)

- 3. We can show our concern for the lost in similar ways
- a. Through personal evangelism

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, (1 Peter 3:15)

b. Through supporting foreign evangelists

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Rom.10:14-15)

-- Disciples demonstrate love for the lost by engaging in both local and foreign evangelism

 1. We go a long way to becoming true disciples of Jesus by...

a. Loving the Lord

b. Loving the brethren

c. Loving the lost

- 2. We go a long way in demonstrating such love through...
- a. Public worship and private devotion
- b. Fellowship with one another in both church and home
- c. Engaging in both local and foreign evangelism

- 3. Many Christians love only partially...
- a. They worship God in public, but not in private
- b. They fellowship with brethren at church, but not in their homes
- c. They evangelize at home, but do nothing to support evangelism abroad

 No matter how much we love as disciples of Christ, we can always improve...

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, (Philippians 1:9)

 Perhaps this study, "The Three Loves Of A Disciple," can provide direction for improving our love.....

Let's Pray: