

No Greater
Love



Greater love of the greatest friend

Love is challenged when it hurts

How can we say that God loves us when it hurts deep? This question comes to us in the time of sickness and loss. Bible writers don't ignore this problem when they wrote lavishly about the love of God. All of Job's 10 children died in a natural disaster. There was a wind storm that blew down their house and killed all of them instantaneously and Job lost all his animals and many servants. Job was confronted with the fact that because of a natural disaster, there are 10 fresh graves on the hilltop. His wife was deeply hurt and she said to curse God and die. But Job said, "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

Love is costly

Parents take great pain to have and rear their children up, soldiers die to defend their nations from enemies. Yes, sometimes death is inevitable to save and keep the loved ones safe. "Love seeks the best for the one loved" is one of the best definitions of love. There may be some motives behind all human expressions of love. But God's love is outstanding as no one can fathom the motive of divine love. Apostle Paul says in Romans chapter five, it is reasonable that someone may die for a good man, very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die (Romans 5:7). Paul says, but God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, enemies of God, without faith and without strength, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8-11). Which means when we were not attractive and least qualified to be the object of God's love, Christ loved us and gave Himself for us.

Love Defines our Relationship (John 15:13)

John the Apostle is known as the Apostle of love. He wrote the best definition and expression of the Love of God in his writing. "Greater love has no one than this that one lays down his life for his friends." In this paragraph the Lord expresses His love and commands His disciples to love Him and to love others, to live in love. The Father loves the Son, the Son loves the Father. The Father and the Son love us. We are to love them and love each other. Love defines this relationship. The Love of Christ is unlimitedly vast and unmeasured, because it reaches all people of all ages.

Love of Christ unto the end

Duration of human love depends on many things including the lovability and dependability, but Christ's love is unchangeable therefore unchanging. He loves us to the very end. He gave us His very heart; He loved us with a love that is simply matchless and astounding. Ah! Doubtless He saw more in us to love than common eyes could possibly see. For the greatest natures always do discover beauties of character in the humblest which escape the observation of ordinary people.

Paul says therefore the expectation from us is so great because it is patterned after the love of Christ. It says in Ephesians 5:2 "live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up

for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” Whenever our love hurts us in our time of grief and loss, look at Christ, it was hurting Him when He died for us on the Cross. He laid His life for us for the simple reason that He loved us and be our best friend to the very end. Amen.

... **Pr. T.S.Abraham**

NO GREATER LOVE

In my youth, my father once told me “a father’s love for a son is exceedingly greater than a son’s love towards the father”. This I understood when I became a father. As parents we love our children and always try to provide them with all their needs to the best of our ability, that doesn’t mean we will get them anything that harms them.

The Bible also teaches us about different forms of love and above all the highest form of love - “**agape**” the love of God for us, and what he expects from us. For a better understanding let’s look at the greatest commandment. In the book of Matthew 22:37-38 “Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the **first and greatest commandment**”.

Everyone of us knows about the love of God, but do we all live according to his expectation towards us?

Even the most popular and the most searched bible verse in the world (John 3:16) depicts God’s love. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”. which indeed is the greatest of all love, and nothing greater than this. He came, lived among us, showed us, taught us, loved us, laid down His life for us, and rose again.

John the Apostle thus penned the powerful truth from the lips of Jesus Christ in John 15:13 “There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends”. We can see God’s love throughout the bible. His love goes far beyond our imagination and has no criteria or a particular ranking to love each other. Whereas in the world we live in today, love is conditional, where we have to earn it. However, God’s love is unconditional. God loves us not because we deserve it, but because that’s who He is. He even gave His life for us so that we could find life. There is no greater love than this. This is the ultimate form of love for us. Because of what He has done, how can we not remember what He said. “If you love Me, keep My commandments”, and also let us not forget the second greatest commandment “You shall love your neighbor as yourself”.

With an open heart let us all encounter our Lord “Yeshuah”, and grow in His image exactly like what He wants us to be. As we see in the early church, and as Timothy encourages in 1 Thessalonians 3:12 “... may the Lord cause you to increase and overflow in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also *do* for you;”

As citizens of the Kingdom, let us all take the great responsibility, overflowing with His love and reflecting Him wherever we are. All glory be to our LORD.

... **Bro. Jolly & Sis Aswathy**

Schedule of Events for 2023

April 2023 Apr 1: Fasting Prayer Apr 8: Cell Meeting Apr 15: PYPA Apr 22: Outreach Apr 29: Picnic	May 2023 May 6: Fasting Prayer May 13: Cell Meeting May 27: Cottage Prayer Meeting	June 2023 Jun 3: Fasting Prayer Jun 10: Cell Meeting Jun 17: PYPA Jun 25: SS Exam
July 2023 Jul 1: Fasting Prayer Jul 8: Cell Meeting Jul 15: PYPA Jul 22: Outreach Jul 29: Picnic	August 2023 Aug 5: Fasting Prayer Aug 12: Cell Meeting Aug 19: PYPA Aug 26: VBS	September 2023 Sep 2: Fasting Prayer Sep 9: Cell Meeting Sep 16: PYPA Sep 30: Special Meeting
October 2023 Oct 7: Fasting Prayer Oct 14: Cell Meeting Oct 20-22: Outreach Oct 27-29: Retreat	November 2023 Nov 4: Fasting Prayer Nov 11: Cell Meeting Nov 18: PYPA Nov 25: Thanksgiving Fellowship	December 2023 Dec 2: Fasting prayer Dec 10: SS Exam Dec 16: Outreach Dec 23: Cell Meeting Dec 31: Year-end meeting

May @ Bethel Pentecostal Assembly

Sun	09:45 - 11.00 am	Sunday School / Bible Study
	11:00 - 01:00 pm	Worship Service
	08:00 - 09:00 pm	Youth Conference Prayer
Mon	09:00 - 10:00 am	Women's Conference Prayer
Tue	08:00 - 09:00 pm	Intercessory Prayer
Sat		
	May 06 10.00 am - 2:00 pm	Fasting Prayer
	May 13 07:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Cell Meeting
	May 27 10:00 am - 1:00 pm	Cottage Prayer Meeting



www.bethelca.com

4181 Irvington Ave, Fremont, CA 94538

408-466-4272

Editorial Board

Pastor T.S. Abraham, Bros' Dilu Daniel & Iype Abraham