

Remnant Life Church
November 3, 2013

Becoming An Eagle Christian

Part VI

“A Love Story”

I John 4:7-11

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways. I love thee to the depth and breadth and height my soul can reach, when feeling out of sight for the ends of being and ideal grace. I love thee to the level of every day's most quiet need, by sun and candlelight. I love thee freely, as men strive for right; I love thee purely, as they turn from praise. I love thee with the passion put to use in my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith. I love thee with a love I seemed to lose with my lost saints, -- I love thee with the breath, smiles, tears, of all my life!-- and, if God choose, I shall but love thee better after death.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning - 1845

- Untold 100,000's of poems, songs, stories, books and movies have been devoted to love
 - Titanic; Gone With The Wind (1939 – released in Jan. 1940); Romeo & Juliet; Roman General Antony and Egyptian Queen Cleopatra
 - Historical love story - Queen Victoria (Grt-grt Grmother of QE2)
 - Lively, cheerful girl who loved painting
 - Queen in 1837 at the death of King William IV
 - 1840 married Prince Albert of Germany
 - 9 children
 - He died in 1861 at age 42
 - She was in mourning the rest of her life forever wearing black
- God's love is beyond our comprehension by the simplest of comparisons
 - **Our love**
 - Begins with physical attraction and moves into feelings
 - Physiology of attraction is similar to fear
 - Adrenalin
 - Is in many ways based on what we receive back
 - Based on the other person's behavior
 - “What have you done for me?”
 - Has a beginning and ending point
 - **His love**
 - Has nothing to do with what we do or have done
 - **Rom. 5:8** - *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
 - Is unconditional meaning unearnable
 - **Rom. 6:23** – *The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
 - Wages – (opsoneon) the pay and materials given to a soldier for performing his duty

- What he did merited what he received
- Has no beginning and no end
 - **Jer. 1:5** - *Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.*
- Is not something He does but is who He is
 - **I John 4:7-11** - *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*
- **This is His love for each of us every day, all the time, no matter what!**

The eagle, in spite of its size, power, fierceness and aggressiveness is a committed, caring, thoughtful and gentle mate.

Eagle Relationships

1. Eagles mate for life.
2. Even after the death of the mate, many (not all) eagles, have been observed living life alone rather than take another mate.
3. Not only do many mate for life but the male continues to court his mate through their entire lives. (An excellent concept for us, men)
 - a. Eagles have been observed performing an acrobatic aerial courtship
 - b. It is done to attract and keep a mate

Maintaining Our Relationships

1. Every relationship of importance in our lives requires effort.
2. Three most important require the most attention
 - a. God; Family; Friends
 - b. They all need much the same thing from us
 - Time
 - Invested energy
 - Sacrifice
3. Jesus' example of persistence in relationship with Him and each other -

Revelation 3:20 - *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.*

 - Church at Laodicea; Asia Minor
 - Jesus Himself knocks at the door of our hearts
4. What are we willing to do for our relationships?
 - a. The Four Love Languages – Gary Chapman
 - b. Loving one another (I John 4:11) for the Christian begins in the home

The very best way we can show God's love to the people around us is by loving those in our lives to the best of our ability.

Matt; Mark; Luke – Love God and each other; heart-soul-strength-mind