

Date: 151004  
Title: Love: the mark of the church.  
Theme: Just as "God is Love": so too, the church has received as our inheritance the mark of abounding love towards each other.  
Close: Prayer  
Benadiction: 1 Thes 3:12 - 13

- I. Love begets love: anger is melted by love
- II. 1 Thes 4:9-10 "I don't need to instruct you. You're already doing it well. I urge you, keep on going."
  - A. The source of Love
    1. "taught by God" 4:9
      - a) "I in them and You in Me" John 17:23
    2. "authority of Jesus 4:2
      - a) "A new command" John 13:34-35
  - B. The demonstration of love
    1. "you love each other and all the brothers"
      - a) Mecedonia, Philipi, Berea
      - b) "as in fact you are living" 4:1
    2. "what must I do to be saved?" Luke 10:25-29
    3. "for at just the right time" Rom 8:6-8
  - C. The impact of love
    1. "to be saved" Luke 10:25
    2. "The world may know" John 13:35
    3. "Holy and blameless"
      - a) By Christ's love Eph 5:1-2, 25-27
      - b) By being filled with love 3:12-13
  - D. The charge to love
    1. "I urge you abound more and more" 4:10, 4:2
    2. Paul Rom 12:10
    3. Peter 1 Pet 1:22; 2:17; 3:8, 2 Pet 1:7
- III. Application
  - A. Do you recognize that the love you demonstrate has its source in God?
  - B. Do you realize how widely our love is already demonstrated?
  - C. Do you accept that the mark of Love is your Divine Inheritance?
  - D. Is there anyone in the body to whom you are struggling to abound in love towards?
  - E. Are you depending on the power of the Holy Spirit to thin and act in God's love?
  - F. Do you love out of a sense of obligation, or a sense of overwhelming thanksgiving?
  - G. Do you look for ways to justify yourself?
  - H. Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to instruct and change you?
  - I. How can you "abound more and more" in love towards your brothers and sisters?
  - J. How wonderful would it be for you if we all abounded in love towards you today?
  - K. Do you feel a sense of joy and holy excitement by the urgent call to "abound more and more in love towards one another"?
  - L.
  - M. Ask God to show you by the Holy Spirit how and to whom you may abound even more and more in brotherly love towards today. Then it's simply a matter of listening and obeying.