

Beloved, love one another.

Intro- My greatest sins are manifested in my greatest duties. In preaching this text and explaining how it applies to various classes of people, I want to expressly avoid the sense that I myself have arrived at such a glorious state of love or that I have risen above all of the sins which I will urge you to avoid. We as Christians should not seek to whitewash our own image, so as to pretend that we are more than we are. And it is this very fact, that we have failed to love both God and man that makes the Gospel such gloriously good news. Christ covers the multitude of your sins. Not only that, he has made them as if they never were. God has freed you from the debt you owe out of love for you, and you too can in this same way love one another. Further God calls us to love actual others, and we will therefore address how particular people can love others specifically and not only in a general sense. *You must love one another particularly.*

T: We will first then look at what love is, and then how we are to love particular people

1. Love is desiring and seeking the good of others

- Negatively **Rom 13:9-10**
- Positively v9 **Matt 7:12, Gal 6:10**
- It is given when no cause exists in the beloved v10
- It is given when sin exists in the beloved v10
- This is how God has loved us, and so how we should love others v11

T: Love longs for the good of others, and is therefore rightly happy when it finds good in others

2. Love is delighting in and approving of the good in others

- Good *in* others is part of their good
- Love rejoices in the truth in others (i.e. holiness) **1 Cor 13:6**
- Seeing, recognizing, praising, enjoying, and encouraging good in others **Rom 15:14**

T: Love seeks the good of and delights in the good in others, and particular persons love particular persons

3. Officers of the Church love one another particularly

- Pastor – **Phil 1:19-26, 1Thess 2:17-20**
- Elders – **1Peter 5:1-4**
- Deacons – **Phil 2:5-11** (I am among you as one who serves)
- People love your officers **Heb 13:17**

T: Church officers love your particular people: The Bible also addresses how members of families love each other particularly

4. Family members love one another particularly

- Fathers/Husbands – **Eph 5:1 / Col 3:19**
- Mothers/Wives – **Proverbs 12:24 / Eph 5:22-24**
- Children – **Eph 6:1-3**

T: We love those in our family particularly and we love others in our church family particularly

5. Each One Love One another Particularly

- Love all Christians of every stripe **1 Cor 1:2-3**
- Especially love those at hand **1Pet 4:8-11**

T: Each one is to love each other in the particular way God has gifted them

Conclusion: Beloved of God, God has loved you. He so loved you when you did not love him, and when you do not love him. He loved you and loves you when there is sin in you which would demand that all love be held back from its exercise toward you. And further he has loved YOU, you particularly. And you are also as a particular person, to love not merely a general idea of people somewhere, but particular persons in particular ways. As God has created you, and positioned you, and gifted you, so you love those around you. One an Other –there are others around you that God has placed near YOU. Beloved, let us love one another particularly.