

Title: LOVE IS NOT ALL YOU NEED, JOHN 3:16 – 17
(Chatham, NJ; 03/25/18, AM) [SP – Topical]

Theme: “All you need is love” is a misconception; we need much more than that.

Purpose: To demonstrate that although love may be our most important need, we still need more.

Introduction:

1. Love is at the top of most everyone’s list of things we need.
2. However, it is not all we need.
3. Things as mundane as food, shelter, and water come to mind, but we assume those necessities are just that, things we know we need.
4. Yet people who promote the LIAYN approach usually mention it as an approach to all human problems, as if it will solve all human evil.
5. Let’s pursue some things that we still desperately need along with love.

Definitions of Right and Wrong

- A. Societies have always known this and have provided laws to regulate and define them
 1. The Code of Hammurapi, a king of Babylon who lived 1792-1750 B. C.
 - Dealt with criminal matters: murder, robbery, assault, bodily injury
 - Civil matters: property, marriage, inheritance, adoption
 - Restitution of injury (injury against women is spelled out in some detail in other ANE law codes) or stolen property
 2. The Law of Moses covers some of these things and more
 3. Admittedly at the top of these laws are love God and love your neighbor: the laws are fleshed out descriptions of love (Romans 13, love fulfills the law and does no harm to a neighbor)
 4. Societies have always known the need for laws to govern such things
- B. Let’s assume that love might be all they needed
 1. We still need to know what is loving behavior and what isn’t
 2. As good as 1 Corinthians 13 is, it isn’t the complete picture
 3. 1 John 3:16 implies laying down our lives for others like Christ did for us
 4. Furthermore 13:6 says, “love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.”
 5. Even with this revelation about love, we understand that we need to have clear definitions of what is right and what is wrong, not to mention a clear definition of what love is

We Also Need Hope (Even though love is greater)

- A. The outcome of atheism, materialism, and social Darwinism is despair
 1. Nihilism: all values are baseless and life itself is meaningless
 2. Life directed by blind chance can be nothing less than this and thus life is not valued
 3. We are not surprised to find that atheistic regimes just within the last 100 years have murdered and starved approximately 150 million people
 4. John Lennon’s Imagine is their theme song . . . to a point
 - “Imagine there’s no heaven, above us only sky”
 - “No hell below us”
 - Later on “no religion to”
 - “Living life in peace” is truly imagination on steroids
 - Appalling that Pentatonix ended their Christmas special with this song (Explain)
- B. Yearning for life after the grave cannot be quenched simply by denying it or by living only for momentary pleasures
 1. 1 Thess. 4:13, we need not grieve like the rest who have no hope

2. Acts 1:11, the angel assures the disciples that Jesus will come again
3. The resurrection teaches us that death is a transition to another life
4. Humanity needs that kind of hope in the face of evil, destruction, and death
5. Love without that just isn't enough

We Need a Clear Definition of Love

- A. Popular notions
 1. "Make love, not war" from the 60s implied sexual license
 2. Love is being kind: we are on the right track, but there is still more (finish 1 Corinthians 13)
 3. Some today believe that love means we should affirm everyone: never challenge their beliefs, never give them an opposing message that makes them "uncomfortable"
 4. Unless you are a conservative or a Christian: Wayne State University in Michigan denied Campus Crusade the right to be a legitimate campus organization simply because they expected their leadership to be professing Christians (after a legal battle they were reinstated)
- B. Love is an action
 1. More than an outpouring of emotion
 2. More than pleading for people to be nice to each other
 3. More than romantic passion
 4. Love behaves in specific ways: 1 Corinthians 13; get past the patient and kind part

Conclusion:

1. God gave his only Son, John 3:16.
2. I defy anyone to provide a better definition of love than that.
3. Just so you don't get me wrong, we need love: to feel loved, to give love
4. Where would we be today without God's love in the Gospel and the hope it provides?
5. Go! Love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength! Love your neighbor as yourself!
6. Just do it as God meant it to be done.