
IN LOVE, IN TRUTH, AND IN THE SPIRIT

The primary purpose of the church is the ministry of God's love made manifest through the Lord Jesus Christ. While love is the reason and purpose of our efforts, the church is to operate in spirit and in truth.¹

In love

The love of God that has been delivered to humanity through his Christ is the basis for all our actions. On account of love, God raised up Jesus to be salvation to the world.² And having the Father's heart, Jesus sacrificed his own life for love.³ Through this love we now have the forgiveness of sins,⁴ with new life in the Spirit,⁵ as sons of God.⁶ And it is this love that gives us the great hope to partake in resurrection of life,⁷ with the promise that we may enter into the kingdom of our God.⁸ Indeed our ministry is the exceeding grace and mercy of God's love given to us through Christ Jesus,⁹ namely, the Gospel.¹⁰

God is love.¹¹ Thus our faithfulness to him is dependent on our devotion to love.¹² The whole Law of God is fulfilled in this principle virtue.¹³ Truly, when questioned about the greatest commandment, Jesus said, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall *love* the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall *love* your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."¹⁴ Seeing that love is the purpose of all of God's people, it is the central purpose of this church.¹⁵ Love redeems, binds together and builds up.¹⁶ Love bears all things, hopes all things and believes all things.¹⁷ The perfect love of God destroys all fear bringing the peace that surpasses understanding.¹⁸ Truly, all things must be done for love and in love.¹⁹ May the love of God be perfected in us as to truly be followers of Christ!²⁰

¹ John 4:23-4, 2 Thes.2:13

² John 3:16, Rom 5:8, 1 John 4:9-10

³ 2. Cor. 5:14, John 15:17, Ephes.5:2

⁴ Luke 24:46-47, Acts 2:38, 10:43, 13:38, 26:18, Ephes 1:7, Heb 2:17, 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18, 1 John 4:10, Rev 1:5

⁵ Rom 5:5, Gal 3:14, 4:6, Ephes 1:13

⁶ Luke 6:35, 20:34-36, Rom 8:14-16, 23, Gal 3:26, 4:4-7, 1 John 3:1

⁷ Luke 1:78, John 3:16, Rom 6:23, 1 John 4:9 Jude 1:21

⁸ Luke 4:43, 12:31-33, Mark 12:32-34, Rom 8:16-17, Ephes.2:4, 2 Cor.4:1, Jude 1:21 James 2:5

⁹ Rom. 3:24, 5:15, 1:Cor 2:9, Ephes.1:6-7, 2:5, 8, Heb.4:16

¹⁰ Mark 1:14-15, 16:15, Acts 20:24, Rom 1:16, 1 Cor 9:23, Rev 14:16

¹¹ 1 John 4:7-8, Psalms 100:5, 103:8,

¹² John 15:9-10, 1 John 3:10-11, 4:7-8, 16, 19-21

¹³ Deut 6:5, Luke 10:27, Rom. 15:8-10, Gal. 5:13-14, James 2:8

¹⁴ Mark 12:29-31 (ESV)

¹⁵ John 15:9-10, Rom 13:8-10, Gal 5:6, Ephes 1:4

¹⁶ 1 Cor.8:1, Col.3:14

¹⁷ 1Cor. 13:7

¹⁸ John 16:33, Rom 5:1, 14:7, Philip 4:7, 1 John 4:18,

¹⁹ 1 Cor.13:1-3, 13, 16:14

²⁰ John 13:34-35, 14:21-24, 15:9-13, 17:20-26, Ephes.3:19, 4:15-16, 1 John 3:23

In Truth

Love is perfected in truth, as God's love is inseparable from his truth and his justice. For it is through faith in the truth by which we are justified and receive the grace and salvation of the Most High.²¹ The ministry of God's love must thus be accomplished in accordance with the understanding of his justice and truth. God's word is fundamental to the ministry as we receive the promise on his terms under his conditions. Divine promise and revelation was given through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, through Moses and the Law, and through the Prophets. Other scripture record God's dealings with his people demonstrating his word with many signs and testimonies. In accord with the word spoken through the Law and the Prophets, we testify to God's plan and purpose for the world.²² Truly, God's redemption for humanity centers upon his Christ, as his grace and truth are realized in Jesus. Thus, our apostolic ministry of love shall be in accord with "the words of this life."²³ We are compelled with confidence that the Gospel is the accomplished word of God, and not the invention of any man.²⁴

The church body is to be sanctified in truth.²⁵ In all our efforts we are to minister in the truth of the scripture. Our worship of God, our faith in the Lord Jesus, the function of the church body - all things must be guided by the truth of God's word.²⁶ Scripture is of foremost authority in all matters of faith being that light which guides us. Recognizing that Christianity has faced considerable distortions throughout history, we are not to be led by tradition - but rather by the word of God in the spirit of truth.²⁷ We adhere to the Holy Scriptures alone; we follow no other heresy or sect. We are determined to stand for the truth regardless of popular culture or popular Christian heresies.²⁸ In truth, the forgoing Constitution affirms no novelties of doctrine outside the evident revelation of God's word. Our doctrine therefore is not to be from the schools of philosophers, nor from the laws or traditions of man, but from Scripture alone, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In The Spirit

While God's word of truth is our solid food, the Spirit of God is our drink.²⁹ As the result of his love made manifest in Jesus Christ, we now receive the Holy Spirit.³⁰ Jesus received from the Father the promise to baptize in the Holy Spirit as he is now exalted to the right hand of God.³¹ The promise of the Spirit shall be realized in our

²¹ Ephes. 1:13, Col. 1:5, 2 John 1:3

²² Eph 3:4-12

²³ John 14:6, Col.1:5, Ephes. 1:13, 4:21

²⁴ Gal 1:11-12

²⁵ John 17:17-9

²⁶ 2 Cor.13:5-8

²⁷ 2 Cor.4:2

²⁸ 2 Tim.4:2-4

²⁹ John 4:10-14, 1 Cor 12:13, Ephes 5:18

³⁰ Acts 2:32-33, Rom 5:5

³¹ Acts 2:32-33, See also: John 1:32-34, 7:39, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, 24:49, Acts 1:4-5, 2:38, Rom 8:34

ministry of the Gospel.³² God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.³³ In Christ, we are to be filled with God receiving his holy Breath.³⁴ By the Spirit deposited in us, we become temples of the living God.³⁵ Indeed, his indwelling spirit establishes us as sons of God.³⁶ The new life of the Spirit purifies us and compels us in all righteousness.³⁷ Through Christ, God pours into us the living water of the Spirit, filling our hearts with love, giving us extraordinary peace with joy unspeakable.³⁸ The Spirit is our comforter providing intimacy with God bearing witness within us to the truth of our salvation.³⁹ All who are led by the spirit of God are sons of God for we come to know God and accomplish his will through the Spirit.⁴⁰

Fundamental to our purpose, of ministering the Gospel in fullness, is operating in the Spirit. We are not to serve under an old written code, but in the new life of the Spirit.⁴¹ Nor shall we teach eloquent words of wisdom without the Spirit, lest the cross of Christ be diminished.⁴² Rather, if necessary, we shall tarry and wait to be given power from on High.⁴³ The Holy Spirit shall be our driving force - transforming, interceding, and empowering for us according to the will of God.⁴⁴ The ministry of miraculous healing deliverance from demonic strongholds is carried out in the power of the Spirit.⁴⁵ Prophecy comes not from a man's will, but when one speaks from God as the Holy Spirit carries him along.⁴⁶ Signs and wonders are made manifest by the power of the Spirit.⁴⁷ Our zeal and inspiration is to be vitalized by this holy Breath of God.⁴⁸ We are to manifest the divine giving witness to God's truth by his power.⁴⁹ We are not to be of dry religion, but rather a living faith with *water from the rock* – partaking of the Spirit of God that comes through the Rock of Christ.⁵⁰

³² Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-6 2:38-39, 8:14-17

³³ John 4:23-24

³⁴ John 6:63, Acts 2:32-33, Acts 8:14-17, Gal 3:14, 1 John 4:13

³⁵ 1 Cor 3:16, 6:19, Ephes. 2:22

³⁶ John 3:3-8, Rom 8:15-16, Gal 4:6, Ephs 4:30

³⁷ John 6:63, Acts 15:8-9, Rom 8:10-14, 1 Cor 6:11, 2 Thes. 2:13, Gal 5:5, Titus 3:5

³⁸ Rom 5:5, 8:6, 14:17, 15:13, Gal 5:22-23

³⁹ Acts 5:30-32, 2 Cor 1:22, 5:4-5, Gal 5:5, Ephes 1:13-14, 2:18

⁴⁰ a: Rom 8:14 – b: Luke 3:21-22 4:18-19, Acts 10:37-38 (Luke 3:16, Acts 2:1-4, 17-18, 38-39, John 3:3-8, 6:63)

⁴¹ Acts 7:51, Rom 7:6, 2 Cor 3:3-6, Gal 3:2-3, 5:22

⁴² 1 Cor 1:17, 2:1-5, 1 Thes. 1:5-6, 5:19

⁴³ Luke 11:13, 24:47-49, John 14:12-13, Acts 2:4-5, 4:29-31, Jude 1:19-20

⁴⁴ Rom 8: 26-27, 2 Cor. 3:17-18, Ephes 3:16

⁴⁵ Acts 4:29-31, 10:37-39

⁴⁶ 2 Peter 1:21, Rev 1:10

⁴⁷ Acts 4:29-31, Rom 15:19, Gal 3:5, Heb 2:4,

⁴⁸ Acts 4:29-31, Rom 12:11

⁴⁹ Acts 4:29-31, 1 Cor 2:1-5, 1 Thes. 1:5-6

⁵⁰ 1 Cor 10:1-4

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