

Love

This tract has been created to introduce those who are searching for truth set forth in God's word. This tract is not based on the traditions of men and pagan religions.

As children of God, we must look for truth in what the scriptures teach us on love. Our version of love now a days is a lot different than that of the Bible's. We tend to confuse love with lust, the misuse of God's creation or even getting shot by Cupid. The Bible does teach us about love and how to treat each other. It also teaches us that those things we think are part of love are actually an abomination to God. Let us see what the Bible has to say about lust and the misuse of our bodies.

I John 2:16

Verse 16 For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Galatians 5:16, 17

Verse 16 *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Verse 17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Romans 1:26, 27

Verse 26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

Verse 27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

Leviticus 20:13

Verse 13 If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood *shall be* upon them.

We are clearly told God's view on these subjects in these few scriptures. The vast number of sexual orientations we have today is only scratching the surface of the level of perversion we have. It is seeping into our schools, trying to pervert our children through books, classes and school guests. Allowing children to manipulate their bodies at young ages to change their gender and grown men to compete and share change rooms with young girls. There are endless stories today to show how far we have slipped from God's word. The Bible tells us the level of perversion that will take place in the end times.

II Timothy 3:3, 4

Verse 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

Verse 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

All in the name of love we accept the lust of flesh, and we celebrate it on February fourteenth. It is possible that Valentine's day is associated with the Roman pagan holiday of Lupercalia. Although there is no concrete evidence on the link, we are better to be on the safe side and not offend God. The holiday still honours a Catholic saint which we believe the Catholic church is as pagan or worse than ancient Rome. Also, this has other pagan origins such as Cupid the ancient Roman god of love.

Exodus 20:3

Verse 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Deuteronomy 27:15

Verse 15 Cursed *be* the man that maketh *any* graven or molten image, an abomination unto the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and putteth *it* in a secret *place*. And all the people shall answer and say, Amen.

Jerimiah 25:6

Verse 6 And go not after other gods to serve them, and to worship them, and provoke me not to anger with the works of your hands; and I will do you no hurt.

Valentine's day is just another pagan holiday and like all other holidays it is rooted in pagan tradition. As Christians we should try our best to keep these traditions out of our life. It is our duty to love the way God intended us to. So, what does the Bible have to say about love? Let us start with what our Lord and saviour says about love.

Matthew 22:36 - 40

Verse 36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

Verse 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Verse 38 This is the first and great commandment.

Verse 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Verse 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Here Jesus simplifies the ten commandments to only two commandments. First to love God and second to love mankind. Following the ten commandments is the basis of love and what we base all our morals on. Paul fortifies this belief in his letter to the Romans.

Romans 13:8 - 10

Verse 8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another; for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

Verse 9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if *there be* any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Verse 10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the law.

Luke 10:27

Verse 27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

I John 5:3

Verse 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

We get a further description of love by John that explains that without God we cannot have love. Only through God is love perfected, that we can live without fear.

I John 4:7 - 12, 18

Verse 7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

Verse 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

Verse 9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

Verse 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

Verse 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

Verse 12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

Verse 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Love is the most important part of life, and it does not matter how good of a Christian you are. If you do not have love you have nothing, this is expressed by Paul.

I Corinthians 13:1 - 7

Verse 1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

Verse 2 And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

Verse 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Verse 4 Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

Verse 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

Verse 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

Verse 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

As Christians we are instructed by God to love ourselves, each other, our God and all his creation. Loving something that is ungodly or against God can only lead to eternal damnation. If we truly love our neighbour then we need to help them overcome their weaknesses. That they may be saved and able to live forever in the new kingdom. By doing this and living Godly ourselves we show our love to God. Love is the essence of life and with the love of God we are everything.

www.thechurchofgod.info
postmaster@cogsd.org