

Partnership

“The Love Ingredient!”

1/7/18

Abiding in Love

1 John 4:7-9 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

1 John 4:16 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

One thing we often miss in partnerships; whether it's husband/wife, parent/child, teacher/student, or mentor/mentee – and that is the Love Ingredient. Love is the glue that holds relationships together; and without it, the relationship is destined to fail, because it is love that never fails. We can see this in some of the relationships in both the Old and New Testament. One is David.

1 Samuel 16:21 New King James Version (NKJV)

²¹ So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer.

Here, we see the relationship between King Saul and David should have been that of a mentor/mentee relationship. However, if we consider their relationship, we can see that David loved Saul greatly; but Saul didn't love David. We know this because King Saul was jealous of David and even tried many times to kill him; for he was selfish, and his selfishness ruined him. But David was anointed. Love connects us with the anointing.

1 Samuel 18:1 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹ Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

David loved Saul, and he was also loved by others. He didn't do anything to make Jonathan love him, he was just talking to King Saul and Jonathan heard it. Because of David's words, Jonathan had an instant connection with him, but it was not selfish, it was genuine love. Let's look at what he said.

1 Samuel 17:57-58 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵⁷ Then, as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. ⁵⁸ And Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" So, David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

There was nothing else recorded that David said except, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite." There's nothing else that could have been except the anointing. Because Jonathan loved David, all he wanted to do was to give to or bless him.

1 Samuel 18:3-5 Amplified Bible (AMP)

³ Then Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. ⁴ Jonathan stripped himself of the outer robe that he was wearing and gave it to David, with his armor, including his sword, his bow, and his belt. ⁵ So David went out wherever Saul sent him, and he acted wisely and prospered; and Saul appointed him over the men of war. And it pleased all the people and also Saul's servants.

Let's look at another scripture.

1 Samuel 18:14-16 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD was with him. ¹⁵ Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, he was afraid of him. ¹⁶ But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

David mingled with the people and they loved them. The Amplified Bible says, "But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he publicly associated with them."

Jesus made the following distinction between the Good Shepherd and a hireling.

John 10:11-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ¹² But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. ¹³ The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.

A hireling is selfish. He only cares about himself and his own needs. A true shepherd has the heart of Jesus and is willing to give themselves to the sheep; watching by prayers and intercessions, feeding them, giving of their time and talent for the spiritual growth and development of the sheep.

Recognize Your Deliverer

It is also important to recognize those who are called and anointed by God to help deliver you.

God ordained relationships are not always easy to recognize and come into to. One reason is that the devil knows the power of two people coming together, on one accord, and agreeing with God. Another reason is that a wounded soul is often attracted to the wrong person because of their own needs or longing of the soul. Others around you may see that you are being attracted to the wrong person, but you may not, and sadly, if a person is being pulled or attracted to a person this way, they generally won't listen to wise counsel. Remember, the devil is after your destiny!

Acts 7:23-25 New King James Version (NKJV)

²³ "Now when he (Moses) was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. ²⁴ And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian. ²⁵ For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand.

The children of Israel didn't recognize that Moses was called and anointed by God to deliver them from Egypt and bring them into a land of abundance. God will put a love in the heart of one whom He has called to help His people, but if the people don't recognize it, they will remain in bondage. Moses first acted out of the timing of the Lord; but even when the timing was right, the people still didn't readily accept him as the answer to their prayers and the one whom God had sent to bring them out of bondage.

Exodus 6:6-9 King James Version (KJV)

⁶ Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:

⁷ And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

⁸ And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: I am the LORD.

⁹ And Moses spake so unto the children of Israel: but they hearkened not unto Moses for anguish of spirit, and for cruel bondage.

The enemy wants you to detach yourself from your deliverer, so it is not uncommon for him to make things hard for you; but his purpose is to get you away from the one God has anointed to bring you into prosperity.

Soul Ties – Rooted in Idolatry

When the enemy pulls people over into ungodly relationships, the effect is ungodly soul ties.

II Corinthians 6:11-16 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open. ¹² You are not restricted by us, but **you are restricted by your own affections.** ¹³ Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open.

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. **I will be their God, and they shall be My people.**"

Connecting with wrong people is rooted in idolatry because it is our way of meeting our own needs. But God wants to meet our needs, every one of them!

Leviticus 19:4 King James Version (KJV)

⁴ Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the LORD your God.

God wanted to be Israel's Lord who would supply all of their needs. These were not just their financial or natural needs, but their physical needs as well as their emotional needs. God is interested in meeting the total needs of mankind. He is a holistic God!

Isaiah 31:7 King James Version (KJV)

⁷ For in that day every man shall cast away his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which your own hands have made unto you for a sin.

In return for Him being God to us who meets all of our needs, He wants our whole hearts, and He wants our hearts whole.

Ezekiel 14:3-5 King James Version (KJV)

³ Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them?

⁴ Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart,** and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols;

⁵ That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols.

When we set up idols in our hearts, this means that we have departed from God in our hearts. In our hearts, we have already walked away from Him and He wants to occupy that place of Lordship in our hearts as well as in our actions. Consider the Message Bible.

Ezekiel 14:1-5 The Message (MSG)

1-5 Some of the leaders of Israel approached me and sat down with me. GOD's Message came to me: "Son of Man, these people have installed idols in their hearts. They have embraced the wickedness that will ruin them. Why should I even bother with their prayers? Therefore, tell them, 'The Message of GOD, the Master: All in Israel who install idols in their hearts and embrace the wickedness that will ruin them and still have the gall to come to a prophet, be on notice: I, GOD, will step in and personally answer them as they come dragging along their mob of idols. I am ready to go to work on the hearts of the house of Israel, all of whom have left me for their idols.'

The command to Israel was to love Him with all of their hearts, mind, and souls.

Deuteronomy 6:4-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

The last verse of the last chapter of I John says, "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen." In this book, John talks much about the love of God, and rightly so. He was called the disciple whom Jesus loved, so he knew the love of God. In fact, he said the following:

1 John 4:16 New King James Version (NKJV)

16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

<p>I believe that the degree to which we keep ourselves from idols, exemplifies the degree to which we know and believe the love that God has for us. If we don't believe in the love He has for us, we will likely have many idols.</p>
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Partnership is still looking to God to supply our needs, but knowing that He is supplying them through others. When we look to people to fill a need or void that only God can fill, we are shifting into idolatry because people are not our God. New Testament idolatry is covetousness.

Colossians 3:5 New King James Version (NKJV)

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Relationships that are not rooted in love, will ultimately be rooted in fear and selfishness, and fear leads to bondage. The apostle Paul reminds us that we have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear.

Romans 8:15 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁵ For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

We have a Father who loves and cares for us, and He delights in our prosperity.

2 Peter 2:3 New King James Version (NKJV)

³ By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

Covetousness can open us up to deception, and that deception will lead us to destruction if we don't allow the Spirit of Truth to come in and lead us back to total trust in the Lord.

1 John 2:10-11 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother [believer] abides (lives) in the Light, and in It or in him there is no occasion for stumbling or cause for error or sin.

*¹¹ But he who hates (detests, despises) his brother [in Christ] is in darkness and walking (living) in the dark; **he is straying and does not perceive or know where he is going**, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*

Hate here is not used in the sense that we know the word hate; but actually, means not walking in love. If love is not working, then he is not hearing God, but the voice of God is being filtered through their selfishness. Everything he hears now is about himself and does not include God or others. Deception is dangerous because the person thinks he/she is hearing the voice of the Lord, but they are actually hearing the voice of the enemy, and Satan is a liar and a deceiver.

Remembering God's love for us requires a total renewing of the mind. We must meditate on the word about God's love for us to change that old image of rejection, being unloved, being in lack and need and come to realize that God loves us, and no good thing will He withhold from us! God loves us, and God ordained relationship will also be rooted in the love of Jesus Christ, and this love NEVER FAILS!¹

¹ Note – these notes are for your personal study in preparation for the upcoming teaching on 1/7/18; however, the actual message may deviate a little, depending on the leading of the Holy Spirit.