



Series Title: "Exiles: A Study of the First Letter of Peter"

Date: January 30, 2022

Message Title: "Love Through Christ"

Teaching: Allen Mom

Reference: 1 Peter 1:20-25

Here are four key points from the passage:

- Exiles have experienced God's supernatural love (vv. 20-21)
- Exiles are known by their love for each other (vv. 22-23)
- Exiles pursue biblical love (vv. 22-23)
- Exiles love others by preaching the Gospel (vv. 24-25)

Message Notes:

Exiles have experienced God's supernatural love. This love and its ultimate expression were planned from before creation. Jesus Christ, his sacrificial death and his resurrection were known before the foundation of the world. We who have been saved were also known before the foundation of the world. Our sins have also been known since before creation. Nothing, no sin catches God by surprise. There is no love on earth like the love of God.

The love of God required a payment. The price of our redemption was fully paid by the death of Jesus on the cross. Then, his resurrection was the defeat of death.

- Have we experienced this love?

Exiles are known by their love for each other. Our salvation leads us to love ("since you have been born again"). Our love for one another is the visible sign of our relationship with, and faith in Jesus. We can only love one another because God first loved us. And our ability to love one another is nurtured in the Body of Christ—the church. When we authentically love Jesus, our lives become visible demonstrations of the love of God.

- Are we known to others by the depth of our love for each other?

Exiles pursue biblical love. Our love comes from a sincere heart, rooted in truth, and is honest and transparent. When we attempt to separate love from the truth, we try to place ourselves above God and to define love on our own (human) terms. Genuine love, though, is only found in the eternal God who is and always has been love.

- Are we honest and true in our love? Do we love without reservation?

How do we handle conflicts (Matthew 18:15-17)? Are we quickly reconciled (Matthew 5:23-24)? Do we gently and kindly call out sin (Galatians 6:1) and practice confession (James 5:16)?

Loving each other earnestly requires sacrifice. Our love must not be shallow; instead, it must be deep and meaningful, even in the midst of trials and suffering.

Love must be biblically defined; ultimately, it cannot be defined by the human experience.

Exiles love others by preaching (speaking) the Gospel. Sharing the Good News is the most loving thing we can do. The Gospel gives life. The Gospel will not fail. Each believer is commissioned (Matthew 28:18-20) to take the Gospel to the world.

- Have we been hoarding the Good News? Or do we carry it in our hearts and on our lips at all times?

As exiles living in a world to which we do not belong, the distinguishing mark in our lives should be the visible presence of God's love.

Questions for Reflection:

- How often was “I love you” said in your home as you were growing up?
- Who told you most frequently that they loved you as a child?
- To whom do you say, “I love you?” Is it easy for you to tell someone other than your spouse or significant other that you love them? Or is it a bit uncomfortable? Why?
- What do you learn about Jesus from verses 20 & 21?
- What does being “born again” have to do with our love for other Christians? for those who aren’t believers (yet)?
- How should putting our faith and hope in Jesus, and in what he has done for us, affect our attitudes and our actions?
- What does biblical love look like within the context of the church?
- What do you need to do in your own life to demonstrate biblical love for others?

My Notes and Questions