

FIRST PETER

The Christian's Life in Exile —Part 9

1:22-25— “Loving One Another”—May 3, 2015

“Jesus Christ stands between the lover and the others he loves. I do not know in advance what love of others means on the basis of the general idea of love that grows out of my human desires... What love is, only Christ can tell in His Word. Contrary to all my own opinions and convictions, Jesus Christ will tell me what love toward the brethren really is.”

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

The Christian's Election and Exile—1 Peter 1:1-2

The Christian's Living Hope—1 Peter 1:3-12

The Christian's Life in Relation to God—1 Peter 1:13-2:3

- Emulating God's Holiness—1:13-16
- The Conduct of a Redeemed Life—1:17-21

Loving One Another According to God's Word—1:22-25

Enabled to Love

²² *Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,* ²³ *since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God*

Peter's command: Love one another _____ and from a pure heart!

- ektenōs— “earnestly, fervently, intensely.” Derived from a verb meaning “to be _____ out.”

How?

1. Christians have been “*purified*”—

⇒ This focus here is on our *response* to the Gospel and what results from it.

2. Christians have been “*born again*”—

⇒ The focus here is on the *action* of God the Father.

⇒ His Word is the means by which this has been accomplished.

Christian love should be characterized by vibrancy and _____!

The Enduring Character of God's Word

²⁴ for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls,
²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

⇒ The Quotation: Isaiah 40:6,8

⇒ The Gospel proclaimed to them is the Word of the Lord.

What is Peter doing in this passage?

Peter wants Christians to understand how vitally important it is for us to _____ one another in light of what God has done in our lives through Christ by the power of His Word.

Some things to consider:

- Jesus is the mediator of all of a Christian's _____, but particularly those with our fellow believers.
- Christians are to love one another in _____ — _____ ways because this is how we have been loved by Christ.
- Love for our brothers and sisters in Christ serves as a _____ to the surrounding world that the Gospel is true and affects real change in people's lives.
- Love for one another serves as an _____ to us during this time of our exile.