



Tuesday, October 30, 2007

The Power of Love

SERMON FOUR: "An Everlasting Love"

Jeremiah 31:1 - 3(NLT)
Hosea 14:4 (NLT)

- One of the greatest differences between the love of humans and the love of God is that the love of God has no boundaries.
- The love of God never runs out. It is truly everlasting!
- Unlike **eros** love, God's love is not based on how someone looks.
- Unlike **phileo** love, God's love is not based on how someone feels about you.
- In fact, God's love is not based on who you are. It is based on who God is.
- I John 4:8 tells us that "God is love".
- God's love for us is based on who He is; He is a loving God.
- If God's love were based solely on who we are, perhaps He would not always love us, because we have not always deserved to be loved by Him.
- **Agape** love loves in *spite of*, not *because of*.
- In our scriptural text, there is a great example of this agape, everlasting love.
- Both references deal with God's relationship with the Nation of Israel, His chosen people, during their state of apostasy.

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- In the first reference, God speaks to the Prophet Jeremiah concerning the restoration of Israel.
- God tells the people of Israel that although they had not always been faithful, they shall be restored to a place of honor and prosperity.
- In verse two, the Lord then reminds them that it was because of His grace that their ancestors survived the wilderness.
- The King James translation reads, "They found grace in the wilderness."
- What kind of love provides grace in the wilderness, as well as restores prosperity to those who have not always been faithful?
- The answer is found in verse three. God tells Israel, "I have loved you with an everlasting love."
- He goes on to say, "With unfailling love I have drawn you to myself."
- Through the Prophet Jeremiah, God encourages these people (who have let Him down on many occasions) and wants them to know that He still loves them, and He wants to restore them.
- In our second reference, God shares His concern through the Prophet Hosea.
- Once again, He speaks to the Nation of Israel concerning His love for them.
- He says to them, "I will heal you of your idolatry and faithlessness."
- The Lord goes on to declare these most profound words, "And my love will know no boundaries."
- As we conclude this series on *The Power of Love*, it is important to remember God's endless love.
- His is an everlasting love that has no boundaries.
- Do not allow any other kind of love that should be reserved for this special everlasting love to take its place in your life. This love is between your God and you.