

FAITH AND LOVE MEET LIFE

1. Text: Philemon 4-7
2. You will notice many times in Scripture how faith and love are coupled together. Our text does it but see also these verses: Galatians 5:6 Faith expressing itself by love; I Timothy 1:14 Faith and love that are in Christ Jesus; I Timothy 4:12 Be an example in love and faith; II Timothy 1:13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; I John 3:23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.
3. What could be more essential to understanding what our response to God should be than faith and love?
4. Unfortunately these two foundational principles are not always linked with practical, living expressions. Let's notice how they are expressed in four different ways.

I. Faith And Love With No Real, Living Accomplishment

1. Where there is not ultimate significance, merely theoretical.
2. Empty "I believe" or "I love you."
3. "Christian Nation"
4. These may be known, but no real difference takes place.

II. Faith And Love With Minimal Expression

1. "I love my kids."
2. "I love you the way I choose to love you."
3. When we basically decide how we will express our faith and love.
4. Hebrews 11:4 Abel and Cain offered sacrifices.
5. This is the major issue in the denominational world: I'll talk of faith and love on my terms (Colossians 2:23 and "Will worship")

III. Faith And Love With A Real Commitment To Express Them In Life

1. James 2:18 Show me your faith without works and I will show you my faith by my works.
2. I Corinthians 13:4-7 presents love as intensely practical.
3. I John 3:18 Love not in word or tongue, but in deed and truth.
4. Faith and love need to be exhibited clearly and practical in each Christian life.
5. I John 5:3 This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.

IV. Faith And Love With The Focus On Their Expression

1. Notice carefully this point: Sometimes deliberately or mistakenly we overstress the ways we may express our faith and love to the point that we may sound like we are "saved by works."
2. Matthew 23:23 is an example of a misguided focus.
3. To stress the faith and love does not mean "softness" on strict obedience.
4. But we need to stress our true motives for whatever we do. Enemies of the truth enjoy using terms like legalists to define us.
5. Why do we do what we do?

Conclusion:

**A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings
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