

“Knit Together in Love”

Col. 2:1-3

Introduction:

- A. Three times Paul says Christians are to be “knit together.” (vv. 2, 19; Eph. 4:16).
 - 1. Verse 2 suggests that love is a bonding agent that binds them together – like glue.
 - 2. For best results glue often must be “applied to both surfaces”
 - 3. Many relationships need love “applied to both surfaces” – Christian/Christian; Husband/Wife; Parent/Child, etc.
- B. Love is a “fruit of the Spirit” and hatred a “work of the flesh” (Gal. 5:19-23).
- C. We want to notice some features of real love – the kind that pleases God and bonds relationships.

Discussion:

I. It Is Always:

- A. **Unconditional**
 - 1. Does not depend on reciprocation (Matt. 5:43-48; 2 Cor. 12:15)
 - 2. It takes two for harmony, unity, peace – but only one to love.
- B. **Generous**
 - 1. In judging others – gives benefit of doubt. (Cf. John 7:24).
 - 2. In esteeming others (Phil. 2:2-3; 1 Thess. 5:12, 13).
 - 3. In helping others (2 Cor. 8:24).
 - 4. In tolerating others (1 Cor. 13:7; Eph. 4:2)
- C. **Responsible.**
 - 1. The two great commandments (Matt. 22:36-40)
 - 2. The first includes all spiritual responsibilities to God. (Cf. John 14:15; 1 John 5:3).
 - 3. The second includes all moral responsibilities to others. (Cf. 1 John 3:17-18).

II. It Is Never

- A. **Rude** (1 Cor. 13:5 NIV, NKJ)
- B. **Self-Serving.**
 - 1. Interested in serving rather than being served (Mark 10:45; Gal. 5:13).
 - 2. Accepts love without demanding it – Often “we need more love” means “I demand more love”

III. It Is Sometimes Difficult.

- A. When we must love an enemy (Matt. 5:44).
- B. When we must risk alienation for love (Heb. 12:6-8)
- C. When we must choose between two loves (Matt. 10:37).

Conclusion:

- A. We cannot love God with loving His children (1 John 4:20-5:1).
- B. We cannot love God’s children without loving God (1 John 5:2)
- C. Love is truly the glue that hold things together.