

Lesson # 10 -- The Biblical Unity of Faith, Love and Hope.

Introduction

- A. God created man in His image and likeness so that he could know God, love Him and fully obey Him. (Ephesians 4:24; Col. 3:10)
- B. In this relationship, as man would walk with God, he would know fulfillment and God in all things would be glorified. (Isaiah 43:1-21)
- C. The Fall of man and our own sinfulness has almost totally destroyed this relationship with God. Even in personal salvation, whereby there is a legal restoration of the relationship, many effects of sin lingers on to hamper us. (Mark 7:21-23; Romans 7; Galatians 5:16-21)
- D. It is the will of God that we be free to worship and obey Him in all of the facets of our daily life. This will constantly form the basis for our own fulfillment. (John 8:32; Rom. 7:6,24,25; Gal. 1:4; Col. 1:13; II Peter 2:9)
- E. Faith, love and hope are necessary qualifications and spiritual conditions for living this kind of life. (Matt. 22:37-40; Heb. 11:6; Galatians 5:6)
- F. It is interesting and instructive how the Bible relates the essential functions of faith, love and hope. The goal of this lesson is to examine the places in the Scripture where the three are united.

I. The Instructive Benefits of Faith, Love and Hope.

- A. I Cor. 13:7,13 -- they have complementary activities.
- B. I Thessalonians 1:3 -- they form the basis of spiritual activities.
- C. I Thessalonians 5:8 -- they provide an armor.
- D. I Peter 1:20-22 -- they define Biblical obedience.

II. The Explanatory Order: ". . . The greatest of these is love."

A. Matthew 22:37-40 -- Love enables one to obey all the Scripture.

B. I Corinthians 13:7 -- Love enables one to interpret life.

C. I Corinthians 12:31 -- Love enables one to edify.

D. Colossians 3:14 -- Love enables one to reach spiritual maturity.

E. I Peter 4:8 -- Love enables one to treat others correctly.

III. The Believer's Responsibility Regarding Faith, Love and Hope.

A. Responsibility regarding the object of faith, love and hope -- namely, God.

1. The principle: God alone is the object of our Biblical response.
He is worthy of our faith (trust), love (devotion), and hope (expectation).

2. The Scripture:

a. Faith - Acts 27:25 --

b. Love - John 14:23 --

c. Hope - I Peter 1:21 --

B. Responsibility regarding the basis of faith, love and hope -- namely, the Scriptures.

1. The principle: we respond to God as He has revealed Himself in His Word. We are not to base our response on our feelings, experiences or circumstances.

2. The Scripture:

a. Faith - Romans 10:17 --

b. Love - I Timothy 1:5 --

c. Hope - Hebrews 6:11-19 --

C. Responsibility regarding the key to faith, love and hope -- namely, decisions.

1. The principle: faith, love and hope are not primarily feelings but functions or actions initiated and sustained by choices. We must learn to practice the truth in making decisions of faith (to put the Word of God into practice with trust), decisions of love (to give God His rightful place in our lives), and decisions of hope (to expect God to work and be glorified in our near and remote future).

2. The Scripture:

a. Faith - Hebrews 11:4-40 --

b. Love - John 14:23 --

c. Hope - Romans 4:18; Hebrews 11:1 --

D. Responsibility regarding the application of faith, love and hope, namely, our responses.

1. The principle: faith, love and hope - as actions - must be exceedingly practical. To respond in any area of life apart from these virtues is to involve ourselves in sin (Romans 14:23). All of our responses are first of all and essentially responses involving the true and living God.

2. The Scripture:

a. Faith - Luke 24:25; Rom. 1:17; Heb. 4:1-4 --

b. Love - Matthew 22:37-40 --

c. Hope - I Peter 1:13 --