

“THE GOD KIND OF LOVE”

by KENNETH HAGIN

If you are a born again Christian the kind of love which will solve all your problems is within your heart.

No Christian can say he does not have it. Everyone in the family has it, or else they're not in the family.

They may not be exercising it or using it. They could be like the one-talent guy who wrapped his talent in a napkin and buried it, but the Bible declares:

ROMANS 5:5

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

This is a love family. The God kind of love has been shed abroad in our hearts.

JOHN 13:35

35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye love one another.

How are they going to know us? “if ye have love one to another.” And the love law of this love family is:

JOHN 13:34

34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

And how did He love us? Because we deserved it? No, He loved us while we were yet sinners.

JOHN 14:21,23

21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

23 ...If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

These verses point out that the one who keeps His commandments...(Remember His commandments are that we love one another as He loved us)...“shall be loved of my Father.”

When you walk in love, you walk in the realm where God is. Because God is love. You walk in fellowship with God.

The love shed abroad in your heart is divine love; not natural human love. Divine love is not selfish. “God so loved that He gave...” Natural human love is selfish. It will even turn to hatred when it doesn't get its own way.

If we would learn to let that love of God which is in our hearts dominate, it would make a difference in our lives. It would cure the ills of our homes.

This kind of love has never been to a divorce court, and will never go. It was natural human love that went there. Now I didn't say that Christians haven't been there, because they have. But they weren't letting the love of God dominate them.

The God kind of love is not interested in ‘what I can get.’ but in ‘what I can give.’

Too many are selfish. And even though they are Christians they let the natural dominate them.

It happens in churches. “I've got my say-so and I'm going to have it.” “I'm a member of this church just as much as anyone else is and I'm going to have my say-so.”

Thank God, He is my Father! Thank God, He is a love God! Thank God, I am a love child of a love God!

I am born of God, and God is love, so I am born of love.

The nature of God is in you if you are His child. And the nature of God is love. So it is natural for you, spiritually, to love.

But if you let your outward man and your mind dominate, even though that love-nature is within your heart--it is kept prisoner. Release the love of God which is within you!

What about the God-kind of love? What are its characteristics? They are given to us in I Corinthians 13. We'll examine them from the King James and the Amplified translations.

Love suffereth long, and is kind (KJ)...A lot of people suffer long, but they aren't kind while they do it. The Amplified reads, “Love endures long and is patient and kind...”

Love envieth not (KJ). The Amplified says, “Love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy.” It is the natural human love which boils over with jealousy--not this kind of love.

Love vaunteth not itself, it not puffed up (KJ)... Or, as the Amplified reads, “is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily.”

Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own (KJ)...This love isn't seeking “what's mine.”

It is not conceited--arrogant and inflated with pride: it is not rude (unmannerly), and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking (Verse 5 Amplified.)

Now I wish you would take time to let that soak in on you.

"Well, I know what's mine though." "I've got my say-so and I'm going to have it." "I've got my rights and I'm going to have them."--No matter how much they may hurt someone else.

This verse says that love doesn't insist on its own rights.

Can't you see how the love of God practiced in the home would straighten things out. And how the love of God practiced in the church would do the same?

...it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it--pays no attention to a suffered wrong. (Verse 5 Amp.)

Here is the thermometer of love. This is the love gauge. It's very easy to find out whether or not you're walking in love. When you begin to take account of the evil that is done to you, you are not walking in love.

Things have happened to me through the years as they have to you. Other ministers and even some of my relatives have told me, "I wouldn't take that if I were you. I wouldn't put up with that. Not me." But I just kept my mouth shut and never said a word--just smiled and stayed happy. I wouldn't take the time to deny it if they told on me that I'd killed my grandma. I'd just keep shouting, "Hallelujah! Glory to God!"

We were enemies of God and He didn't take account of the evil we had done to Him. He was love and He sent Jesus to redeem us. He loved us while we were yet sinners. And did you know that He loves us even more now that we are His children?

The God-kind of love takes no account of the evil done to it--pays no attention to a suffered wrong. Here is God's cure for every division in the church, the home, or wherever it is. This kind of love "pays no attention to a suffered wrong."

There aren't too many people walking in God's love--even though they have it. They are walking in natural human love and they sure pay attention to a suffered wrong.

It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. Love bears up under anything and everything that comes...(Verses 6, 7a, Amplified.)

Someone says, "I just can't take it any longer!"

Love can!

"I just can't put up with him any longer."

Think about God. He's putting up with us.

Love...is ever ready to believe the best of every person...(7a Amp.)

Natural human love is ready to believe the worst. But this kind of love is ever ready to believe the best of every person: husband, wife, brother or sister in the church, children, neighbor, etc.

I have travelled across the country preaching and teaching, and it is amazing what you will hear on this preacher, this person, this deacon, this Sunday School teacher, this singer, etc. I didn't pay the least bit of attention to any of them. I don't believe a word of it. I believe the best of every person.

Though someone has missed it, when you see the best in them and love them rightly, it will bring out the best in them.

Its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances and it endures everything (without weakening). Love never fails--never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end. (7b, 8a Amp.)

This kind of love works in the home, or church, or wherever--because this kind of love never fails!

Love never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. (Vs. 8 KJ)

We are interested in spiritual gifts, and that is right. But we should be interested in love first.

Yes, I believe in prophecy and prophesying, in tongues and the interpretation of tongues. Thank God for them! But you can exercise these things without love and they become as sounding brass and tinkling cymbal.

Let's have prophecy. Let's have tongues. Let's have faith. Let's have knowledge. But, let's have love with them!

Let's put love first because we are in the family of love.



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