

## **GOD: "LOVE ME, LOVE MY PEOPLE"**

1. Text: I John 4:17-21
2. Here is one of the most important principles in all of Christian living. We ignore or disobey it to our peril.
3. What is it?

### **I. The Principle**

1. We are commanded to love our brothers and sisters in Christ.
2. If we do not love our brethren, we do not love the Lord.
3. Verse 20: If I do not love my brother whom I see, I cannot love God whom I do not see.
4. If I love the Lord, I will love my brethren.
5. Ephesians 1:22-23 Christ as the head; the church as his body. Could you love someone's head without loving the body?
6. If you do not like Christ's people, you don't like him.

### **II. The Passages**

1. Settle I John 4:20 deep into your heart.
2. I John 2:10 He who loves his brother abides in the light. (See 1:7)
3. I John 3:10 Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.
4. I John 3:11 We should love one another.
5. I John 3:14 We have passed from death to life because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brethren abides in death.
6. I John 3:16 This is love: He laid down his life for us. We ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.
7. I John 3:17 Those with world's goods, help those with needs.
8. I John 3:18 Let us love not in word or tongue, but in deed and truth.
9. I John 3:23 Commanded: Believe in Jesus Christ and love one another.
10. I John 4:7-8 Love each other; Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. If don't love, don't know God.
11. I John 4:11 If God so loved us, we ought to love one another.
12. I John 4:12 If we love one another, God abides in us.
13. I John 4:21 he who loves God must love his brother also.

### **III. The Practice**

1. Negatives: Don't ignore this issue.  
Don't "Spiritualize" godliness to go to hell.  
Don't expect of others what you're not willing to do.  
Don't use all this simply to criticize others.  
Don't prejudge your brethren.  
Don't be cliquish.  
Don't withdraw in troubled times.
2. Positives: Start here and now.  
Commit to God's people.  
Talk to brethren. Get to know them (FORM).  
SHEN.  
Care about and ask about brethren.  
"Get over it!"  
Eat together.  
Use intergenerational connections.  
Appreciate.  
Encourage.

Conclusion:

**A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings  
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