

RainDancing101.com

Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass
It's about learning to dance in the rain

Dance Classes Here

February Newsletter

Rx For The Soul

I find joy in every day, not because life is always good, but because God is.

Apostle Paul said "(I pray) that you being grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth, length, height & depth, to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Ephes. 3:17-19



RainDancing101.com

February 2017 Edition
Volume 7, Issue 746

Sharon Jackson, Publisher

5260 78th Ave. N. #644

Pinellas Park, Fl. 33780

727-824-7740 Leave Msg

w/address-email for newsletters

My Favorite Childhood Memory? Not paying

BILLS



What I Don't Like About 'Love'

A shocking statement, Huh? I won't be presenting some kind of new doctrine here. Or, anything that is in error. No, it is Bible truth many people - especially leaders - somehow miss when it comes to the *truth about Love!* So this needs to be said here.

But, it's easy to miss! Everyone seeks acceptance and approval in life from birth up. And once we hear that scripture says 'God is Love', it's like a freefall from that point on into the lap of love. Or is it...?

In order to gain heaven, it depends on where you go to church or who it is that you listen to. You might get several versions, all the way from 'keeping the right rules' to.... it's **all** Grace, Brotha....!

Neither approach is what scripture teaches. You must understand that *fallen* man loves his rules! They appeal to our pride and to self-righteousness. Pharisees of every generation love to 'lord it over' lesser human beings... (in their minds) All popular cults that deny the deity of Christ and legalistic groups or churches are more known for what they are against than ever what they are "for." (like love itself!)

When you flip that coin, we find the other side - where no matter what the issue is - you must Love... Sounds 'holy' doesn't it? No error is more flagrant in what is perceived as today's church than this error! Emergent churches and major behemoth churches and denominations of every kind all proclaim this kind of love - that God loves you no matter. And Yes, He does. But there's a problem! He's **not** like us. Before He is anything else, God is holy.

So this type of 'Love' lacks

godliness - or being like God... Who again, is holy. Dear Friends, there won't be any sin in heaven, so don't try to wear any in there! That's why Jesus came and died!¹

In the left margin, Apostle Paul says the love of God is so wonderful, so marvelous that it is incomprehensible. He bids us in that passage to try to comprehend the incomprehensible! God is so very tender and forgiving and full of mercy. His loving kindness is fresh every morning!² But He does not tolerate sin in our lives, and truth is, the day we say 'Yes' to Christ, He empowers us to say 'No' to sin! The path to forgiveness & righteous living is ready - if we but only **ask**.³

This is what I don't like about the kind of 'love' a lot of preachers proclaim. I'm offended at how many who supposedly are lovers of truth **warp** the Bible's very message! And by doing so, the very nature of God is sullied by their description!

Years ago, this was tagged "sloppy agape," tho I haven't heard that phrase for decades. There is nothing 'sloppy' about God's love - it is clean and fresh and appealing because it's different than any kind of love the world has to offer!

With that latter kind of love, all your words must be dripping with niceties, lest someone be offended from the gospel. Hmmm.... Jesus didn't mind offending folks in Matthew 15. He told Peter that if folks were offended, they were blind guides - and to 'let them alone.' Peter wanted Him to apologize, but Not!

The truth is clear. "All scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking,, correcting and training in righteousness."⁴ Note a couple of negatives here -

Besides 'teaching & training' there is *rebuking & correcting*. But you will never hear such a 'negative' in churches that proclaim the licentiousness *they* call love! And if you say or do anything - **You**. Are. Out. Of. Order. - thus need training in their brand of Love!

This 'brand' that makes no correction is not the *love of God!* Here's why: "Let us **grow up** speaking the *truth* in love"-that's **content + attitude!** And God is *confrontational* - so is the *gospel!* Because God demands a decision from us! Without a decision to accept His loving plan for our life-we'll coast on to hell. Yes.

A nurse in a huge hospital cared for a dying man on his death bed. In such times, this Christian woman would break hospital protocol and present the gospel to such people. So, she asked him if she could share with him. He said yes. She did so and he listened. After, the man exclaimed "Nah...I don't need that!" And went on to hell! His choice - a free gift offered but he rejected it.

One thousand years from now - he will **still** be crying, "Why didn't I listen to that kind woman?" So what is God to do in such a time as that...? Will 'love' salvage his soul? No. It's the man's choice. Plainly. God did all He could in sending Jesus to die.

"You must be holy, even as I am holy." Faith is reckoned to us as *righteousness*.⁵

You may be thinking you will get right - before you die. So you think you're in control, do you? **Time** doesn't belong to you, my Friend! You may die in your sleep. Or die in an auto crash where - There. Is. No. Time! I was in a crash once. There was no time to *pray*. Why take a chance? Today is the day of your salvation...⁶ Come now!

Never
Will I Leave You
Never
Will I Forsake You
Hebrews 13:5

The most powerful weapon in the world is

TRUTH

Ravi Zacharias

"Without holiness, no man shall see God..."
Heb 12:14

- References: 1) I John 1:9
2) Lam.3:21 3) I John 1:9
4)II Tim.3:16 5) Rom 4:5-16
6)II Cor.6:2 7)Ephes.1:13-14
8)Matt.4:4 9)II Cor. 13:5
10) Phil.3:1-2; John 4:24
11) Ps.100:4 12)Sozo/soteria
In Grk 4 salvation is 'whole'
13)Ephes.4:23; Rom.12:1-2
14)I Peter 1:23

A friend named Betty Klem taught me the best lesson I've ever learned about love. She was a brand new teacher's aide in Indiana, fresh out of college & a Christian. She worked in a school for children with learning disabilities. She loved her job.

But one day she was assigned to a young boy who daily arrived disheveled, dirty and he came to school with soiled pants every day. It was her job to clean him up in the mornings. Even then, he seemed to work at being a distraction to the other students. She dreaded this morning routine.

Joey wasn't retarded, just, Emotionally Disabled.

One morning she prayed, 'God I just can't do this anymore! It makes me too sick to my stomach...'

She was stunned to hear the Lord speak to her then. He said "Don't look AT him. Look IN him, and call forth that which is made in My image..."

Following that event, she decided to try and find each day, one good thing to say to him. It would be hard, she thought... but it wasn't!

So the next day as she washed grime from his face, she noted that he had beautiful blue eyes. So she told him! He smiled broadly .

The following day, she'd never noticed his curly blond hair. She made a routine of telling him positive things. Joey started to look forward to coming to class.

She began to affirm to Joey that he was clever, bright and "a good boy." The teacher commented she'd observed Joey'd bonded with Betty. Then other students.

One day Joey arrived and he'd combed his own hair. He began dressing himself. Soon he was participating in class, even learning. Betty discovered his home life was broken; him very neglected.

It was there that Betty learned what a difference a teacher could make in just one child's life... even when there was no one else! By the end of the school year, Joey was a delight to Betty, the teacher and the classroom.

I've never forgotten those words God spoke to Betty. "Don't look AT him; look IN him and call forth that which is made in My image." What a privilege we've been given... to speak into people's lives!

Betty loved on Joey tangibly, with encouraging 'words' to help raise him up... Real love illuminates our path but uses **truth** to do so!



How Can I Know....?

Dear Agatha: I know people who are so confident and so sure they know God, it sort of annoys me! Because I want to know 'how they know' they know God...?! I had an experience years ago where I prayed to receive Christ, yet I often wonder if it *took*.. I'm not particularly religious, but I am *spiritual* – whatever that means. But I can't bear people who talk about God all the time- it seems pretentious and stuffy. Or self-righteous. I don't go to church for that reason. Please help! **Mike.**

Dear Mike: I appreciate your candor, Mike. I've thought a lot about what Jesus talked about in general and His disciples. I see Him talking about every day life. Gardens, animals, farming, relationships, parenthood,

travel, fears and love is what I found. He did what **we** ought to do – He met people where they lived. Or where they **are!**

This newsletter's agenda strives to change people's mind about God. So it is indeed 'spiritual.' But in everyday life, I don't talk about God except in 'principle' only. On purpose.

Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit is given us so we can *know*.⁷ He reveals Himself to us in many ways – like we don't enjoy our sin anymore. He is our teacher, our guide, so we are *hungry* for the Bread of Life ⁸ – God's word. We are *thirsty* for fellowship with *real* believers. So...if you are not hungry or thirsty for these things...? We **are** told to assess ourselves to see whether we are in the faith! ⁹

If you somehow feel summoned to *worship* God thru beautiful music, that's a good sign.¹⁰ People who truly know God are people who have a *grateful heart*.¹¹ Best, you should have a *burden* for broken lives to tell 'em there's *wholeness*¹²

We're encouraged to 'be renewed in the spirit of our minds.'¹³ How? We're to be 'transformed' by the renewing of our minds.' That Greek word is *metamorphosis* – it's by phases. But it won't happen without exposure to His word! We are born again of that incorruptible seed of His word.¹⁴ "Herein is eternal life, that you **know** the only true God & Jesus Christ whom He has sent." Jesus - John 17:3



May
the tender *mercy* of
our *God* give *light* to
those who sit in
darkness and guide
our feet into the way
of *peace*. Luke 1:78-79

Accept
Correction
and you
will find life.

Proverbs 10:17

