LOVE WE NEED TO GET RID OF

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. If you should ask most folks, "What is the one thing we need most in the church and in the home today?" you would likely hear "LOVE".

2. I will agree there is a shameful lack of love in the church and in the home -- Eph. 4:2; 5:2; I Cor. 16:14; I John 3:17.

3. But, I would like to suggest to you that one of our BIG problems in the church and in the home is too much love we need to get RID OF -- Rom. 12:9; Matt. 6:5; Mk. 12:38; Matt. 23: 6; John 3:19; I Tim. 4:10

4. Let me now point out what I mean:

I. WE NEED TO GET RID OF LOVE FOR SELF -- SELF-CENTERED LOVE

   1. Paul said, "For men shall be lovers of their own selves," --II Tim. 3:2
   2. We should not think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think -- Rom. 12:3
   3. We should not think we are something when we are nothing -- Gal. 6:3
   4. Unity could be restored in many congregations if each would esteem others better than self -- Phil. 2:3 -4
   5. We need to love our neighbor as we love self -- Matt. 22:39.
   6. Husbands need to love their wives as their own bodies -- Eph. 5: 28 - 29.

II. WE NEED TO GET RID OF LOVE FOR MONEY.

   1. It is the root of all kinds of evil -- I Tim. 6:10
   2. Brethren have trouble finding time to do anything special for the Lord's cause because they are too involved making money.
   3. Jesus warns about serving mammon -- Matt. 6:24
   4. Preachers sometimes neglect their studies and preaching because they are too involved in money making sidelines.
   5. The love of money has robbed the church of:
      (1) Elders
      (2) Preachers
      (3) Teachers
      (4) Spiritual growth
      (5) Sinners of Salvation

III. WE NEED TO GET RID OF LOVE FOR SINFUL PLEASURE

   1. Men and women love pleasure more than God -- II Tim. 3:4
   2. Sin can be pleasant for a season -- therein lies its appeal -- Heb. 11: 25
   3. Demas forsook Paul because he loved this present world -- II Tim. 4:10
   4. Too many brethren think they should not be asked to forgo very much pleasure in order to be a faithful Christian.
   5. This is the root of many problems in the church.
(1) Some think an unscripturally divorced person should not have to forego the pleasure of another marriage -- but some will have to forego the pleasure of marriage to go to heaven -- Matt. 19: 9 - 12

(2) Many congregation's attendance suffers from people who are constantly out of town on pleasure trips.

IV. WE NEED TO GET RID OF LOVE FOR THE WORLD

1. We are told not to love the world -- I John 2:15.
2. We are told that friendship with the world is enmity with God -- James 4:4.
3. We are not to be conformed to the world -- Rom. 12:1 - 2
4. We are to be unspotted from the world -- James 1: 27.
5. In the church today there is too much love for the world.
6. Evidence of Worldliness is seen in:
   (1) Immodest dress -- I Tim. 2: 9 - 10
       1. Shorts
       2. Skin-tight pants
       3. Sundresses with the back out
       4. Mixed swimming
   (2) In the breakdown of the home.
       1. Companions are unfaithful to one another -- I Cor. 6:18; Eph. 5:3
       2. In speech -- Eph. 4:29
   (3) Human relationships -- brethren can't get along -- I Cor. 3: 1 - 3.

V. WE NEED TO GET RID OF THE LOVE FOR PREEMINENCE AMONG BRETHREN

1. Diotrephes caused a lot of problems because of his love for preeminence -- III John 9
2. The "limelight" seekers of our day have caused much trouble in the church.
3. When those who love preeminence don't get their way, they will form a "wrecking crew" and wreck the church (parties that divide the church).
4. Sometimes the lover of preeminence is a preacher.
5. Sometimes it is an elder.
6. Sometimes a member.

VI. WE NEED TO GET RID OF LOVE FOR THE WAGES OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS

1. Peter talked about some who loved the wages of unrighteousness -- II Pet. 2: 15
2. Money could be gained for soft-peddling the truth -- Tit. 1:11; II Pet. 2:3
3. It could be money gained from outright wrongdoing.
4. It may be human praise gained by the hypocrite -- Matt. 6:1

VII. WE NEED TO GET RID OF THE LOVE OF DARKNESS

1. Jesus said, "Men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil" -- John 3:19
2. Darkness stands for sin and error.
3. Paul said we are to "have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" -- Eph. 5:11.
VIII. WE NEED TO GET RID OF LOVE FOR LIES

1. John said, "Whosoever loveth and maketh a lie" would be lost -- Rev. 22:15
2. Paul said some would have pleasure in unrighteousness -- II Thess. 2:12
3. A man acts out of LOVE -- if he loves a lie he will walk in lies.
   (1) If a man loves the truth he will find the truth and walk in it -- II John 4
5. Each man will walk after that which he loves.

CONCLUSION

1. A man's eternal salvation depends upon what a man loves -- Psa. 119:127
2. In order to be saved a man must love the truth -- II Thess. 2:10
3. Let us get rid of the wrong kind of love.