



2021

SEMINAR NINE  
THE FIFTH ELEMENT - LOVE  
BY  
REV. ROTIMI KALEB

---

*"And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." - I Corinthians 13:13.*

### THE NEW COVENANT

As believers and members of the Body of Christ, we are now the people of God on the earth. We are not under the Old Covenant but have been made partakers of the New Covenant that is founded on better promises. The Church is now the new "Israel of God", reconstituted in Christ Jesus - Galatians 6:16.

We must also realise that, in the same way that Israel was established under the Old Covenant to live by the Law, under the New Covenant, we have also been given a Law which is the Perfect Law of Liberty. It is the law that not only liberates us but ensures that we enjoy the benefits of our redemption.

By His death, burial, resurrection and ascension, Jesus initiated and inaugurated a Covenant. With this New Covenant, comes a new priesthood.

*"If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron? For the **priesthood being changed**, there is made of necessity a **change also of the law.**" - Hebrews 7:11-12.*

*"If the priesthood of Levi and Aaron, which provided the framework for the giving of the law, could really make people perfect, there wouldn't have been need for a new priesthood like that of Melchizedek. But since it didn't get the job done, **there was a change of priesthood, which brought with it a radical new kind of law.**" - Hebrews 7:11-12 (MSG).*

The coming of the New Covenant was the establishment of a new Priesthood. With this Priesthood, came a new law called the Law of Christ. Law is determined by Priesthood. The Believer in Christ is not without a Law. The Believer in Christ is under the Law of Christ (I Corinthians 9:21).

*"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." - Galatians 6:2*

### THE NEW LAW FOR SAINTS

*"A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." - John 13:34-35.*

**THIS IS THE LAW OF CHRIST!** It behoves us as New Testament Christians, to walk in love as commanded by the Lord. Paul asserts that we have been called unto liberty, but we should not use this liberty that we enjoy as an excuse to live for the flesh - (Galatians 5:13-14). We are to live by love and serve one another.

Romans 13:8 - **The debt of love is a debt from which we can never be free.**

- Matthew 7:21.

## **THE GREATEST LAW IN THE OLD COVENANT**

- Matthew 22:37-39.

- Deuteronomy 6:5.

Loving God is the greatest commandment and privilege of all. We can claim to love God because He loved us first (I John 4:19). Our love for God is primarily expressed by our keeping His commandments and we can't love God without loving people!

- I John 4:20-21.

- John 14:21 (NIV).

## **LOVE: THE DEFINITION**

There are several Greek words that are translated to mean love. They are:

### **1. PHILEO:**

This denotes tender affection. It is the more natural or human type of love between friends and family members. This is love on a more emotional level, where you treat people based on their response to you. For instance, what they do for you or what they can give you.

### **2. EROS**

This is also used for "love" or "desire" and is a concept in ancient Greek philosophy referring to sensual or passionate love, from which the term erotic is derived. This is the type of love that is shared between a man and a woman in a romantic relationship. It is used when sexual desire is the type of affection being described.

### **3. STORGÉ**

This is the love one has for his kindred. The Enhanced Strong's Lexicon defines storge as "Cherishing one's kindred, especially parents or children. The mutual love of parents and children, wives and husbands. It is a loving affection; prone to love; loving tenderly; chiefly of the reciprocal tenderness of parents and children."

### **4. AGAPE**

This is used in the New Testament to characterise the attitude of God toward His Son, mankind, and those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, in particular. It also conveys His will to His children concerning their attitude, one toward another, as well as expresses the essential nature of God. Love is the response of the recreated

human spirit to God, people and things. It is a decision to treat people the same way God in Christ treats us. Walking in Love is a natural outflow of the Nature of God. Therefore, it is imperative for believers who have God's life to walk in love.

### **LOVE AUTHENTICATES THE NEW BIRTH**

*"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death."* - I John 3:14.

We know that we have moved from the realm of death into the realm of light because we now love other people, especially Christians. Love is not something that we are trying to obtain. It is something we already have. Love is the essence that defines us in the New Birth. The primary characteristic of the Christian is that we have become "Love people". As new creation people, the Bible says that the love of the Father is in us. Our Father is essentially love by nature, and when He gave birth to us in the new birth, He gave us the same nature that He has.

*"Let brotherly love continue"* - Hebrews 13:1.

The Love of God is the essential ingredient in our spiritual DNA. You cannot truly be a Christian without possessing love. When we became born again, the love of God was poured into our hearts by the Holy Ghost (Romans 5:5).

### **SELFISHNESS: THE ROOT OF ALL SINS**

When Adam sinned, he activated a law in himself that made Satan his lord (Romans 6:16, Ephesians 2:2). Mankind was then able to choose what was good outside of God. The first thing he did when he ate the fruit was rooted in self-preservation. Adam became selfish. Every sinful act finds its root in selfishness.

#### **All sins have "I" in the middle.**

The root of man's sin is unbelief and the primary expression of sin is selfishness. When man was alienated from God, he became selfish. When man is restored to the Life of God, he becomes selfless.

*"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves..."* - II Timothy 3:1-2.

**PERILOUS:** (1) hard to do, to take, to approach (2) hard to bear, troublesome, dangerous a) harsh, fierce, savage.

*"For men shall be lovers of their own selves..."* - II Timothy 3:2.

The Love of God compels us to transfer our preference and priority to others.

*"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."* - Philippians 2:3.

Love is a very serious matter because God is love. Therefore, the love God compels us to transfer our preference and priority to others.

### **LOVE YOUR ENEMIES**

- Matthew 5:44-45.

Who said “hate thine enemy”? It was the dominant Jewish thinking under Old Covenant Israel. Jesus is a Greater Moses, therefore, there MUST be a transition from Old Covenant thinking to New Covenant thinking in the church today and not just in the areas that we choose.

- Matthew 5:46-48.

We are almost like God when we walk in love with those who hate us.

- Ephesians 5:1-2.

## **LISTEN TO JESUS**

- Matthew 17:5.

- Matthew 17:5 [ESV].

The Lord Jesus is described as the “Express Image of God” or the very “Representation of His Essence” (Hebrews 1:3). So, if you want to know what God is really like, look at Jesus.

*“And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.”* - Matthew 17:8.

*“Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith;”* - Hebrews 12:2.

*“Keeping our eyes on Jesus”* - CSB

*“We look away from the natural realm and fasten our gaze on Jesus”* - TPT

*“Fixing our eyes on Jesus”* - NIV

*“[looking away from all that will distract us and] focusing our eyes on Jesus”* - AMP

**“We must keep** our eyes on Jesus” - CEV

*“We must focus on Jesus”* - GWT

*“Simply fixing our gaze upon Jesus”* - Weymouth

FIXING: Fix your gaze. If you are not walking in love, then you need to fix your gaze.

## **LOVE AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD**

I think we would all agree that the presence and pleasure of the Holy Spirit is worth more than worth any offence or ill-feeling we may harbour.

- Phil. 2:1-2.

- Ephesians 4:30-32.

## **SOME BENEFITS OF WALKING IN LOVE**

### ▪ **LOVE GIVES ANSWERS TO PRAYERS**

- I John 3:22.

- Mark 11:25.

### ▪ **IT KEEPS US IN THE LIGHT**

- I John 2:10.

The Love of God is the source of the Life of God and the Life of God became the Light of men. At the very heart of the matter, living in the love of God keeps us in the light. When we have the light of God in our spirits, there is no occasion for stumbling in our lives.

An “occasion of stumbling” means to be caught up in a trap or snare. It means an impediment placed in the way to cause one to fall. The plan of God is that we walk above everything that will cause us to be entrapped. The enemy wants to have us trapped in snares. Living in love delivers us from the snares that the enemy has planned for us. We can only live a life above entrapment or snares when there’s no “occasion of stumbling” in us; when there’s nothing in us that will cause to us stumble. IT IS VITAL!

- **IT GIVES US VICTORY OVER OPPOSITION**

- Psalm 18:28-29.

As you go through this life, stay CONSCIOUS of this fact: your spirit has been lit by the floodlight of God’s Life and your spirit is blazing with His Glory. Therefore, you will win every battle, make progress in spite of challenges and overcome every adversity. Walking in love guarantees that not only does our light stay lit, but more importantly, our light is not clouded by darkness. You will remain in darkness and lose in the battles of life when you refuse to walk in love.

- **IT ENABLES US TO KEEP DWELLING IN GOD**

One way that we maintain our union with God is when we walk in love - I John 4:16.

The scripture is quite plain in telling us that dwelling in love is synonymous with having a vital union with God. If we are not consciously walking in love with one another, the Bible says that we have stepped out of God. Any step out of Love, is a move away from union with God. Any move away from union with God, is effectively deciding that we don't want to experience full capacity. We see in the Word that “We were chosen in love... accepted in love ... so that we can have a share of God’s inheritance” (Ephesians 1:4, 6, 11).

- **IT KEEPS US IN THE POWER OF GOD**

- Ephesians 3:19 (NLT).

As essential as knowledge is, personally experiencing the love of Christ “surpasses knowledge.” Doctrinal knowledge is vital, yet it is love that fills us “to all the fullness of God” (vs. 19). There is a dwelling place of love that God desires us to enter. It is a place where our knowledge of God is filled with the substance of God. Passion-filled love for God, brings us into the fullness of God.

- **IT HELPS US TO BE FILLED WITH THE FRUITS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

- Philippians 1:9-11.

When our eyes are open to the Love of God in the full disclosure of knowledge, we will understand that our love walk is the most important part of our lives as believers. Walking in love keeps us sincere and unsullied. A solid love walk will enable us to live our lives without offence until the Great Day of the Lord's return. **We will become Unoffendable!**

We have received the gift of Righteousness from the Righteous One and have been made trees of righteousness. As trees of righteousness, we must bear fruits of righteousness. Our ability to bear these fruits in life is tied to our love walk. Love is the Life that flows through our root system. Being planted and rooted in love (Ephesians 3:17); rooted in Him (Colossians 2:7), who is Love in essence. It is safe to conclude that the major reason for poor fruit-bearing among us in the Body of Christ is our failure to walk in love.

**Do we want vengeance or want to bear fruits for the Kingdom of our God?**