

# I Peter: Living in a Loving Community

## Chapter 1:13-22—2:3; Part One

Peter has given us three imperatives thus far: set your hope on God's grace; be holy yourselves in all your behavior; conduct yourselves in fear during your time of stay upon the earth. In verse 22 we come to the fourth imperative upon which Peter elaborates in relative length and uses some of the strongest terms available to him. We are to love one another.

### I. Godly love for one another is a contingency

- A. It requires pure hearts and thoughts
- B. It arises from obedience to the truth
- C. It makes possible (i.e.: obedience) a sincere love one for the other

### II. We are to fervently love one another from the heart

- A. Peter describes Godly love for one another as fervent, which is the same word used to describe Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane:

*And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground. (Luk 22:44 NAU)*

- B. What love is not (John R. W. Stott)

*Clearly Peter requires love for fellow Christians as the great mark of true holiness. He is not satisfied with tolerance or acceptance, far less with formalized distance. He will have love, sincere love, without pretence [UK Spelling] or hypocrisy. (In the New Testament, 'unhypocritical' always describes love.) But even sincerity is not enough: our love must be 'deep' and intense. Peter uses a word that means 'stretched' or 'strained.' The same term describes the earnestness of Christ's prayer in Gethsemane.*

- C. What love is

- 1. it is passionate (see above)
- 2. it is pure (not mixed or contaminated, not double minded)
- 3. it comes from the heart

***Transition: it arises from the imperishable seed of the new birth, made possible by our relationship to the Holy Trinity: (to be continued...)***

**Conclusion:** Christian love is deep and abiding and without preference or prejudice.

- 1. Do you love one another in this way?
- 2. Is your love pure and holy and without contaminants?
- 3. Does it reflect the love Jesus has for us?