

**August 26, 2012**

***Stir up!***

Last week we introduced 3 ways in which we are free to love or more specifically, three expressions of love we have been set free to express and live out in our lives.

1. In believing what God has said and not **wallowing** in the mud of our old self-identity any longer.
2. Spending ourselves on others. - Phil. 2:1-18
3. Forgiving our brother.

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**Questions:**

1. Why is wallowing so appealing?

(Please do yourself a favor and don't look for ways to disagree. I know that to each of us the "concept" of wallowing is rather undignified and childish. That however, does not mean you don't do it, just like every other human being on the planet, so just roll with it please.)

2. What is a major danger which can develop out of a misunderstanding or misapplication of the teachings of God's love for us and of His Grace?
3. What is the difference between the promises of Deut. 30:6 & II Thess. 3:5?
4. Is God's influence the only influence our souls are subject to hearing? If not, what else is there?

5. If the devil is going to "grace" you - what resources is he going to draw from?

6. Name some of them (Here is some help from II Tim 3)

- lovers of themselves
- lovers of money
- boasters
- proud
- blasphemers
- disobedient to parents
- unthankful
- unholy
- unloving
- unforgiving
- slanderers
- without self-control
- brutal
- despisers of good
- traitors
- headstrong
- haughty
- lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God

7. Identify some of those exact same tendencies in you which you might be (or currently are) tempted to excuse because of God's love?

*(i.e. - Even though we hate it when we see it or hear it, often our actions are presumptuous and we give into flesh patterns of selfishness and indulgence dismissively knowing that "God loves me anyway and He understands".)*

8. Knowing that these are not pleasing to your Father and are therefore produced outside of Him or more specifically, they are produced through another union - ask God to help you identify why you are reluctant to allow the love of God to speak to that area in your life.

**(REALLY SPEND SOME TIME WITH THIS PLEASE.)**

9. We already know that we do not love because in reality we really do not know and believe His love for us.

We also know that if we genuinely sought His love - we would find it.

So the obvious problem is a lack of genuine seeking. This is very much like the last question only broader - covering the entire landscape of your life (past included).

Why do you resist the inner promptings to genuinely seek God with all of your heart?

(Remember you can seek and inquire daily while your heart is really no where near Him. - Isa. 58:1-4; 29:9-15. There are some examples of reasons on the website and perhaps reading through the review may help **Stir Up** some thoughts which will help you answer this question.)