## Elder Bobby Willis



## The True Involvement Of Love

"God is love" is a statement that any God-fearing follower of Christ understands, at least fairly well. We know it not to be just an emotional or sentimental type of love, but rather an intense, meaningful characteristic founded in God's everlasting love for us. Notice how John states it in I John 4:16, "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and they that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." When a child of God is born of the Holy Spirit, they are enabled to know and believe the works which Jesus Christ did on their behalf; mainly, they are saved eternally by God's grace.

So then, what exactly is this great love? The Lord Jesus Christ tells us Himself what true love is all about. Matthew 22:36-40 states plainly, (36) Master, which is the great commandment in the law? (37) Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. (38) This is the first and great commandment. (39) And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. (40) On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

The Apostle John sheds even more light on the subject when he writes: "And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it" (II John

- 1:6). Make note of the three important facts which are set forth:
  - 1. Love is Active "that we walk after" it, and "walk in it." Inactive love is not felt, known, or profitable.
  - 2. Love is Receptive "ye have heard from the beginning." There are a number of times in Matthew, Mark, and Luke where it is said, "Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." Only born again children of God have been given hearing ears.
  - 3. Love is Revealed in obedience "ye should walk in it." Jesus said: "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

While we should love God with all of our heart, soul, and mind; it is due to His great love for us even to the point of sending forth His son to suffer the agony of our sin, lay down His life upon the cross of Calvary, and rise from the grave as a triumphant Saviour. "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (I John 4:10).

"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 passage of scripture in John gives us the admonition of loving one another in the same manner in which God loves us. Looking into the depth of God's love for His children surely gives us "Something To Think About."