

Introduction...

- Previous weeks we looked at Redemption.
 - What we were not with
 - What we were redeemed with
 - What we are redeemed to..."unfeigned love"

- It is love that is a key indicator of the new creation in Christ
 - Not church attendance, dressing right or even talking right
 - Not that those things are wrong, but that those things are not indicators
 - Lost people can do those things as well
 - 1 John 3:14 "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death."*

- Who are we to love? *"love of the brethren"*
 - This only able to be accomplished after redemption, not able to before
 - This what we are redeemed unto...this is what is done AFTER redemption
 - The love towards one another shows the love of Christ in us

- We are to love the brethren...who are the brethren?
 - Brethren speaks to a family...we are to love our family

- That begs the question...who is our family?
 - The family to who we are born into.
 - I love my mom, dad and brother, because they are my family.

- In a spiritual context, we are to love the brethren
 - Why? We are all part of the same family
 - Why do some people **not love anyone**? They are not of the family
 - Our 1st birth birthed us into Adam's family
 - This birth brought sin and destruction
 - This birth leads to death
 - This birth heartache and disappointments

- That is why it says “being born again”
 - Being born again into a different family...I have new people to love
 - This 2nd birth bring forgiveness and restoration
 - This 2nd birth leads to life everlasting
 - The 2nd birth has joy and peace
 - This 2nd birth is NOTHING like the 1st birth

 - We were born into Adam’s family through corruptible seed.
 - What is that seed? The Word of God
 - How is that corruptible?
 - Because the population of Adam’s family began with corruptible seed.
 - The Word of God that was tainted, it was tarnished, and defiled
 - They believed the devil he questioned God’s Word...*“hath God said?”*

 - However, we are not born again w/corruptible seed but w/ incorruptible
 - Just as we were not redeemed with corruptible things: silver and gold

 - We are born again by believing the incorruptible seed
 - We are born again by believing the Word of God when it says...
 - “By grace are ye saved through faith”*
 - “While we were yet sinners Christ died for us”*
 - “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”*
 - “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”*

 - Peter instructs us on how we are to love the brethren...
- 1. Unfeigned Love**
- Unfeigned: to pretend, to simulate, the art of acting
 - I don’t have to act like I love my family
 - Sometimes I have to act like I like them, but not love
 - Here is the problem with pretending to love...can’t sustain it
 - It will eventually catch up with you**

2. With a Pure Heart

- This means not to be tainted or stained, to be clean and with no impurities
 - Chapter 2 continues this train of thought...not having malice in our hearts
- We are able to love each other with a pure heart
 - Love: agape-o; supreme love
 - The love that flows out of us of a pure heart because it is the love of Christ
 - *Matthew 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."*
- ***I don't love like that...that takes us to #3...***

3. Love Fervently

- Fervently: *to put forth an effort and to continue intuit effort*
 - To try...to be intentional...to make an effort on purpose
 - Resist the urge to love rate the brethren
 - Look on the good qualities of brethren
 - Try to understand their story
 - Relate to their dilemmas
 - Realize that you have faults that others may not like in you
 - Try understanding their story
 - Remember that God loves you
 - Do not talk about someone to someone else
 - Try understanding their story
 - Purposely stop yourself from thinking negatively about someone
 - Ask the Lord to help see the positives in others
 - Ask God to remove hurt and bitterness in your heart
 - Did I say...Try understanding their story?!?
 - Pray for them...it's hard to not like someone while you pray for them
- ***The only people that can love one another like this are those that have been born again and are part of the family of God.***