



**SERIES: August / September Series “HE IS ENOUGH”**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Thursday, 09/16/2021**

**Scripture: Colossians 3:14**

**TITLE: Love Is All You Need**

“*Love, love, love. Love is all you need.*” That’s what Paul McCartney sang with the Beatles in 1967. We’ve all been singing it ever since. And Paul was sort of right. But I wonder why we never asked questions like “What is love?” “What kind of love?” “Is this true, and if so, why?”

We love the concept of love. But I think we love notions of love but fail to embrace true love.

What is true love? Why is it so important? The Apostle Paul provides the answers today in Colossians 3:14 (NLT).

“Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.”

In case you’ve missed it, Paul has been talking about our old and new natures. He said that because of Christ, we have taken off our old sin nature. And we are now to put on the essence and actions of our new nature. Paul has laid out some very practical ways to do this. He’s mentioned patience, humility, mercy, and forgiveness. It’s at this point he says, above all these, clothe yourselves with love. In other words, everything should be wrapped in and motivated by love.

You could summarize verses 12-13 as, “love one another.” The whole sum of the law of God was to love God, which flows into loving others. Paul wrote the love passage in 1 Corinthians 13. And at the beginning, he says he could have all the best gifts and actions, but if they were void, they would be meaningless. Isaiah said our best actions apart from a righteous heart, and right motives are filthy rags.

You see, to practice a righteous act separate from love is legalism. That’s why true love is driven by the right motives and selfless ambition.

Today as the body of Christ, we will never enjoy mutual fellowship through mercy, kindness, humility, patience, and forgiveness if we are void of true, God-driven love. Love is the beautiful reality and expression of each and every believer, destroying the ugly sins of the flesh, which destroy unity.

So this is my challenge for you today: Take the love test.

No, it’s not one of those tests where you put your hands on this machine to tell you how attractive you are. It’s about checking your heart and motives. What motivates your compassion,

your service, your encouragement, and your actions. Is it love or religion? Is it self-promotion or love? Is it the approval of others or love?

Love is the foundation of everything we do...at least it should be. So today, do everything in love. When we do, God is glorified, lives are touched, and we are transformed.