

## "Real Faith Does"

Greg Wendschlag March 5, 2017

*The only thing that counts is **faith** expressing itself through love." Gal. 5:6*

### I. Faith

Hebrew 11:1

Faith is: being sure of what we hope for - Hypostasis

Hypo - below/under

Stasis - setting on which other stones are placed

Faith is: being certain of what we cannot see - Elenchos

A belief cross examined; something tested for its validity

Our faith: The eternal God created the heavens and the earth and all the creatures in them. He created man to have relationship with Himself but man broke the relationship by disobediently sinning. Man's sin has separated us from God, who is life, leaving us with death. God came to earth as a man, the Lord Jesus Christ, to restore the relationship between God and man. Jesus did this by dying on the cross for our sins. He rose from the grave to conquer death, the penalty of sin. If we accept Jesus' as our savior we will be transformed into His likeness in the present and look forward to His return for us when we'll live with Him together for all eternity.

### II. Love

Agape: self-sacrificing love of God

*"An unconditional commitment to an imperfect person. The love of God."*

! Love is hard to understand until it is defined by what it DOES!

### III. Expression

Expressing faith without love becomes religious slavery.

Love without faith is wonderful but has no eternal power.

- ! Religion says, "If I **obey**, God will love me." Jesus says, "**I love you**".
- ! Religion says there are good people and bad people in the world. Jesus says there are **repentant** people and **unrepentant** people.
- ! Religion cares about your **birth**. Jesus care about your **new birth**.
- ! Religion says, "It's about what **you do**". Jesus says, "It's what **I have done!**".
- ! Religion never leads to joy, only **pride** or **despair**. Jesus leads to **humility** and everlasting joy!

*Real Faith Does.... Love Does!*

### **A Deeper Look for Your Groups InCommon this Week**

1. If faith is being SURE and CERTAIN, when you accepted Jesus, what convinced you to be so sure?
2. In your walk with God, what are you completely certain about? Is there anything about God that you are still working on being completely sure?
3. How do you know if your faith is expressing itself in love or if your faith is expressing it self in a religious way?
4. This week what practical ways can you express your faith in love?

**Pray together to live out the lesson**

