

II. Comprehensive Studies in Hosea on Our Them

A. Studies on the love of God. I will take some topics I think critical and review them in the light of selected Scriptures in the book; I will not attempt to list all the texts that apply....the concerned student may read and find many more for every category---I think!

1. How Love Works

- a. Defining Love: Love is the unselfish seeking of what for others is best in the will of God. All usages of "love" find significance in that.
- b. 11:1-4, it advances the cause of the subject
- c. 11:9-11, it administers correction for health
- d. 11:8, it does not give up!
- e. 12:5-6, it invites confidence
- f. 12:12-14, it seeks to restore
- g. 13:9-14, it offers alternatives
- h. 14:1-4, it keeps the door (s) open

Take what love does in these Scriptures and read it into the text of 1 Corinthians 13. I have only sketched some positive aspects and have not shown how love disciplines --a very important point to be discussed.

At a recent panel one of the questions concerned the difference in romantic love, brotherly love, etc. The application may vary due to the persons involved but all love is essentially the same. It is not selfish, etc., etc.

2. What frustrates love?

- a. 4:1-5, disobedience to the character and declared will of God
- b. 4:6-11, spiritual ignorance leading to neglect of God
- c. 4:12-14, spiritual adultery (some examples from the past and the present)
- d. 4:15=19, regression to a fallen state
- e. 6:6 ff, covenantal violations (Exodus 19)
- f. 8:1-4, pretense
- g. 8:14, a wicked memory

3. What is the result of spiritual adultery?

- a. 8:5-11, loss of identity
- b. 9:13-17, temporal judgment
- c. 13:15-16, destruction

4. Summary:

Please note that God's love is not unconditional. It reaffirms both the promises of blessing as well as those of judgment.