

Born Again for Love

1 Peter 1:22-2:3

1. What does it mean to fervently love one another?
 - a. What it is not.

 - b. What it is.

2. How are we made capable to love in this way?
 - a. Only by _____ (being born again).

 - b. Only by ongoing _____ (sanctification).

3. How does God use the gospel to bring this about?
 - a. The Holy Spirit uses the gospel to bring _____ to dead souls.

 - b. The Holy Spirit uses the gospel to bring _____ to believers.

Our times of reflection* may take many forms but here are a few suggestions:

- Think about one or two things from the message that struck you by reviewing your notes or this outline.
- What did you learn (or re-learn) about who God is, about who you are, about the person and work of Christ, about how God wants to change you?
- Did this message reveal any wrong thinking or any attitudes or behaviors that are not Christlike?
- What steps can you take to put into practice what you've heard?

Don't be afraid to quietly discuss these things with your family or a friend during this time.

* *Reflection* is defined as "serious thought or consideration".

*The Letter to
God's Elect*



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Born Again for Love

1 Peter 1:22-2:3

1 Peter 1:22-23

Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

1 Peter 1:24-2:3

For, "All flesh is like grass,
And all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers, and the flower falls off,
But the word of the Lord abides forever."
And this is the word, the gospel preached to you.
Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit
and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,
like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word,
that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,
if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

The primary command is...

“Fervently love one another from the heart.”

It is based in two statements of identity:

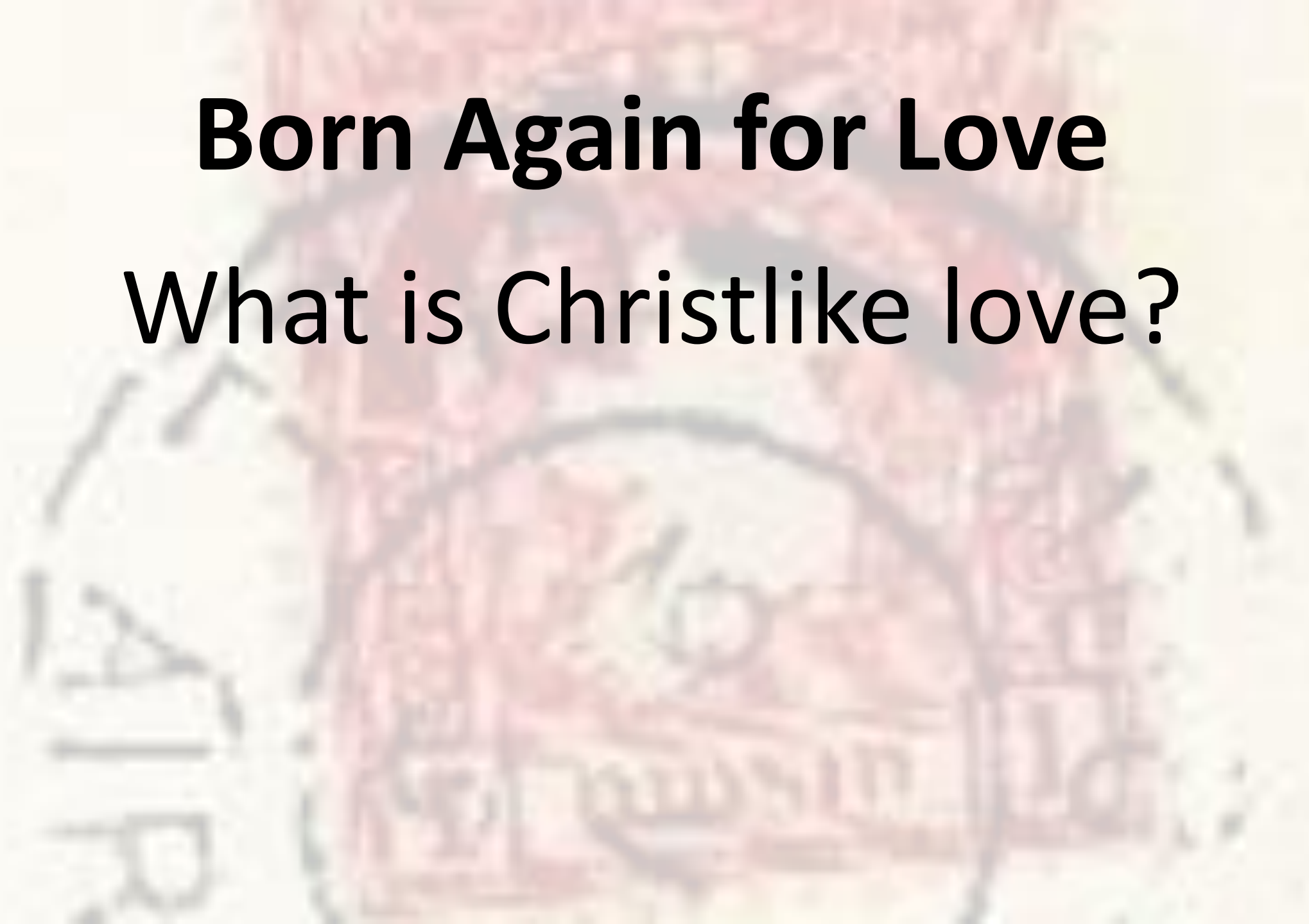
Having purified your souls in obedience to the truth...

Having been born again by the word of God...

It is the gospel that the Holy Spirit uses to generate spiritual life and growth, making believers capable of Christlike love.

Born Again for Love

What is Christlike love?



Christlike Love

What it is not.

1 Peter 2:3

Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit
and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,
like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word,
that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,
if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

Ephesians 4:31

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger
and clamor and slander be put away from you,
along with all malice.

2 Corinthians 12:20

For I am afraid that perhaps when I come
I may find you to be not what I wish
and may be found by you to be not what you wish;
that perhaps there may be strife, jealousy, angry tempers,
disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances.

Christlike love is not the **natural** manifestation of selfishness and self-centeredness.

Christlike Love

What it is not.

What it is.

1 Peter 3:8-9

To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for this very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

Christlike love is the unnatural,
persistent manifestation
of God's Spirit at work in you.

It is Christlike.

Ephesians 4:32

And be kind to one another,
tender-hearted, forgiving each other,
just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

It is Christlike.

Colossians 3:12-13

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; **just as the Lord** forgave you, so also should you.

It is unnatural.

1 John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

The one who does not love does not know God,
for God is love.

It is God's Spirit in you.

Galatians 5:22-23

But **the fruit of the Spirit is love**, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Born Again for Love

What is Christlike love?

How are we made capable
to love in this way?

Made capable of love how?

*Only by regeneration
(being born again).*

1 Peter 1:22-23

Having purified your souls in obedience to the truth
for a sincere love of the brethren,
fervently love one another from the heart,
having been born again not of seed which is perishable
but imperishable, that is, through the living
and enduring word of God.

Christ-**likeness** is only possible
by the Christ-**liveness** given to you
in the regeneration of your soul.

Romans 8:10

If Christ is in you,
though the body is dead because of sin,
yet **the spirit is alive** because of righteousness.



Colossians 1:27

Christ in you is the hope of glory.

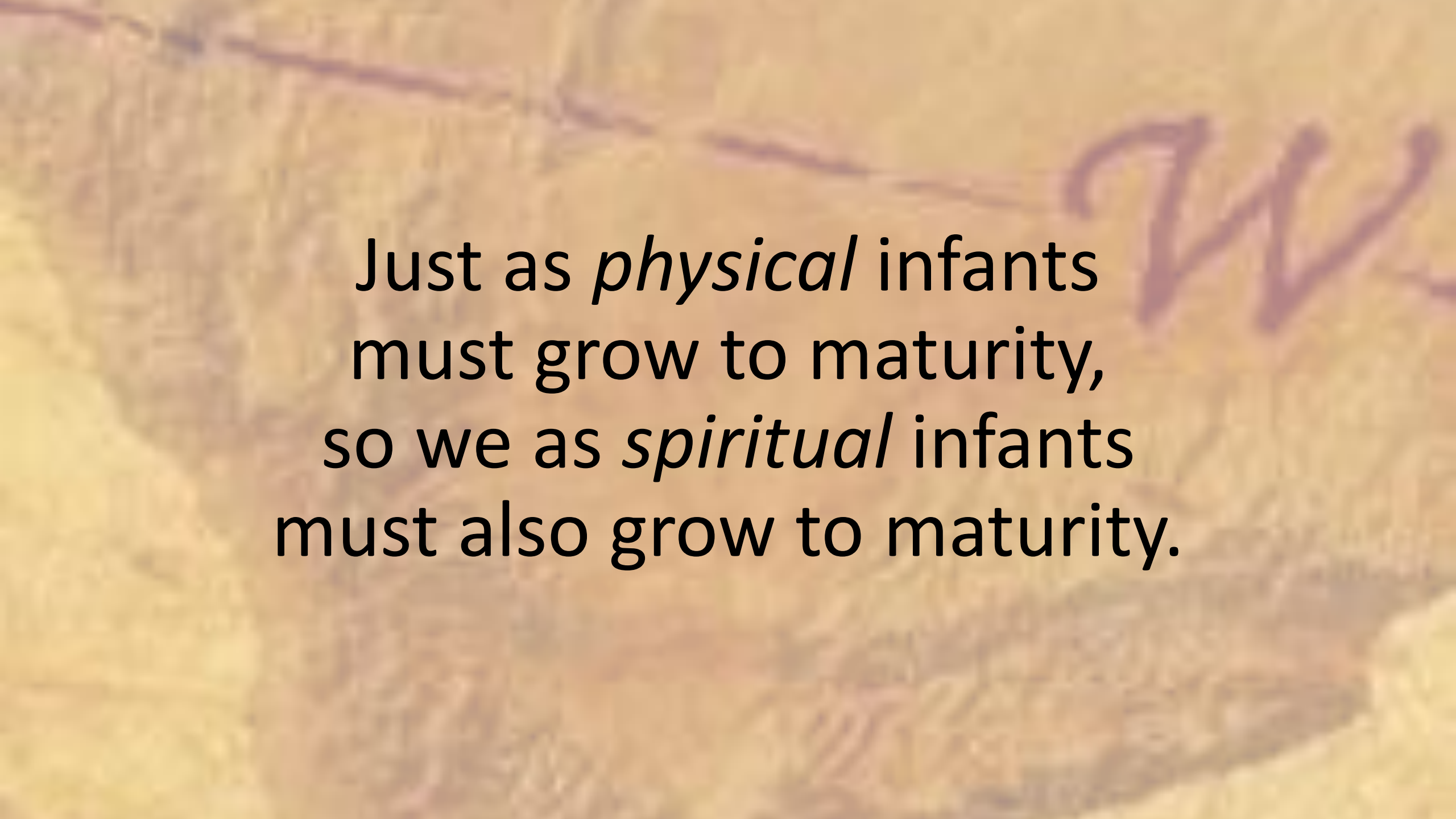
Made capable of love how?

Only by regeneration.

*Only by ongoing renewal
(sanctification).*

1 Peter 2:1-3

Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit
and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,
like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word,
that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,
if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.



Just as *physical* infants
must grow to maturity,
so we as *spiritual* infants
must also grow to maturity.

Born Again for Love

What is Christlike love?

How are we made capable to love in this way?

How does God use the gospel
to bring this about?

It is the gospel Peter is writing about.

1 Peter 1:22-25

...ferverently love one another from the heart
having been born again not of seed
which is perishable but imperishable, that is,
through the living and enduring word of God.

For,

*“All flesh is like grass,
And all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers, and the flower falls off,
But the word of the Lord abides forever.”*

And this is the word, the gospel preached to you.

We are prone to think of the Bible as God's Word in ways that are subtly disconnected from the good news message of salvation in Christ.

1 Peter 2:1-3

Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit
and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,
like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word,
that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,
if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

How does God use the gospel?

*The Holy Spirit uses the gospel to
bring **life** to dead souls.*

1 Peter 1:22-23

...fervently love one another from the heart,
having been born again not of seed
which is perishable but imperishable, that is,
through the living and enduring word of God.

James 1:18

In the exercise of His will

He brought us forth by the word of truth,

so that we might be, as it were,
the first fruits among His creatures.

How does God use the gospel?

The Holy Spirit uses the gospel to bring life to dead souls.

*The Holy Spirit uses the gospel to
bring **growth** to believers.*

1 Peter 2:2-3

...like newborn babes,
long for the pure milk of the word,
that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,
if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

How do babies grow?

There is an imperceptible power of life in an infant that uses food to bring about physical growth.

How do children of God grow?

The imperceptible power of the indwelling Holy Spirit uses the gospel to bring about spiritual growth.

Ephesians 3:16

...that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory,
to be strengthened with power **through His Spirit** in the inner man.

John 17:17

Sanctify them in truth; **Your word is truth.**

The Holy Spirit uses the gospel upon which you feed to bring about growth in Christlike love.



Is your love Christlike?

Are you feeding on the gospel?