

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT LOVE

1. Unfeigned love is the type of love you are to show to others:

(1 Peter 1:22) ²² Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart

2. Jesus wants you to love others as much as He loves you:

(John 13:34) ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

(John 15:9, 12) ⁹ “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹² This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

(John 17:26) ²⁶ And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare *it*, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

3. It is by love that you are recognized as a believer:

(John 13:35) ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

(1 John 3:14) ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love *his* brother abides in death.

Love of other believers results in spiritual unity which is a powerful force. When they were united in prayer, Pentecost happened (Acts 2). They were of "one heart and mind" Acts 4:32 and then verse 33 with power they continued to testify. Similarly, they devoted themselves to the unity of fellowship, in Acts 2:42 and then verse 43, many signs and wonders were done.

4. You are to love your enemies:

(Luke 6:27, 28, 33, 35, 36) ²⁷ “But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you... ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same... ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. ³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

(Matthew 5:43-44) ⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor^[a] and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

5. You are to be rooted and grounded in love:

(Ephesians 3:17-19) ¹⁷that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height— ¹⁹to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

6. If you are to be filled with the fullness of God and His power, you must have love. Love is important to power because it eliminates fear:

(1 John 4:18) ¹⁸There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

7. Faith, which is so important to power, works by love:

(Galatians 5:6) ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

8. As we near the end of time here on earth, the love of many will not endure. It will "wax cold," which means people will become uncaring:

(Matthew 24:12) ¹²And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

9. But we are given the assurance that nothing can separate us from God's love:

(Romans 8:35, 38-39) ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... ³⁸For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THE GREATEST LOVE

1. The greatest love is the love God had for the sinful world. He showed that love by sending Jesus to die:

(John 3:16) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

2. Jesus demonstrated this great love as He willingly gave His life on the cross:

(John 15:13) ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

(Romans 5:7-8) ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

3. It is this powerful force of love--the love of God--that the Holy Spirit desires to develop in your life:

(Romans 5:5) ⁵ Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

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