

12. 5 Last Days Commands-Part 12

Let All You Do Be Done With Love

a message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier

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Find this week's sermon audio and video message [HERE](#).

For those who are new, we have been looking at the subject of how as Christians we are soldiers of Jesus Christ, fighting in a war—a spiritual war for the souls of people many of whom are family and friends. The question we've been dealing with is—are we doing what the Word commands for those living in the last days?

Today, we will finish up our series, “**Five Last Day's Commands**”—or “*Five Commands to Christians Living in the Last Days*”—which comes out of:

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (NKJV)

¹³ Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. ¹⁴ Let all *that you do* be done with love.

This morning, we find ourselves looking at the fifth command in this series where Paul tells us as Christians to—**“Let all *that you do* be done with love.”**

V. Let all *that you do* be done with love.

As we saw when we studied the third and fourth commands—the bravery and strength of the world is different from the *bravery* and *strength* that comes from God and made available to His people when the need arises.

The same is true with the last command in that the love of the world is different from the *love of God*. The word for “**love**” in verse 14 is *agape*. The word *agape* is most often used in the New Testament to speak of God's love—a deep, unconditional, unselfish love that is inherent to His nature.

1 John 4:7-8 (NKJV)

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

This is a love that we, in our humanness, don't have within us. The kind of love that dominates the fallen heart of man is—*self-love*. Many don't realize that the love they feel for others is often rooted in *selfish love* and polluted by *selfish* interests.

We often show love to those who can do for us or help us in some way—or to those that make us feel good about ourselves—“*I love those who love me because—their love for me is an affirmation of my worth and builds up my self-esteem.*”

(We see a lot of self-love in marriage today which is why so many marriages are failing).

**But God's love (agape) is different—
God's love focuses on others and is *unconditional* which means—
it's not conditioned upon how others treat us.**

One pastor shared this story about God's love working in the life of a man he knew,

"I saw this in the life of a man I became acquainted with when I first became a Christian. His obvious passion was service to God. He arranged his schedule so he could spend as much time as possible working behind the scenes of our summer youth camp and in his church. He projected a calm and loving spirit. And he was himself one of the most loved men of our denomination. In retrospect I see that he was a master at loving the Church.

At camp one summer some of us (we were then teenagers) were admiring this man, and one of the group began telling us that his daughter had been brutally murdered by a young man the family had taken into their home in an attempt to help him. Amazingly, this man repeatedly went to the prison to minister to his daughter's murderer, finally led him to Christ, and continued to visit him over the years...The love of Christ had mastered him."

➤ You say, "I could never love like that!"

Of course you couldn't—this is a supernatural love we're talking about—it's God's love in operation! The only way to have God's love *within* you is to be saved (Rom.5:5)—but then to keep God's love flowing *through* you, you need to stay in fellowship with Him.

This allows God's love to continually *fill* you and flow *thru* you to the people of this unsaved, selfish, fallen world we're living in. The fruit of that will primarily be manifested in how you treat others—primarily in how you meet their needs.

1 John 3:16-18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. ¹⁷ But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? ¹⁸ My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

This is exactly what Paul meant when he said (in Romans 12:9), "*Let love be without hypocrisy.*" In other words, "*Don't just pretend to love others—really love them tangibly and practically!*"

We really demonstrate God's love for others when we meet their needs—whatever those needs might be. Sometimes the need they have is physical (food, clothing, shelter, etc.).

- Sometimes it's emotional (forgiveness, affirmation, encouragement or simply spending time with them).
- Other times it's spiritual in nature ("*Reproving, correcting, and instructing them in righteousness*"—2 Timothy 3:16).
- Of course, God knows that the *greatest* need this fallen world has is for salvation.

This caused the love of God to meet our need by giving us His only begotten Son (John 3:16).

This is *truly* the love of God in operation—which I think is probably what Paul had in mind in 1Corinthians 16:14 when he said, "**Let all *that you do* be done with love.**"

The context implies spiritual warfare which is fighting the devil to rescue those he has taken captive. *How do we do that?* By sharing the gospel and by being a good witness by the way we live and the love we show.

In other words, before you retaliate when your unsaved co-worker, or family member, or even a stranger puts you down or takes advantage of you in some way—before you seek to lash out and take revenge remember that in the eyes of God the issue isn't your hurt feelings it's their eternal destiny.

They are not the enemy, they've been taken captive by the devil to do his will—our real enemy is Satan and his demons. As Paul reminded us in Ephesians 6—

Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)

¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Yet Satan tempts us to focus on ourselves and moves in our hearts to 'get even' by retaliating in some way or by taking them to court because "I have my rights..."

1 Corinthians 6:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law [court] against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather *let yourselves* be cheated?...

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus made this clear when He told us that loving those who love us (family and friends) doesn't require God's love—any unbeliever can love those who love them.

Remember that God sent His Son into a world of *rebels* not allies, of *enemies* not friends. God's love is truly demonstrated when we use it to love our enemies—as Jesus stated:

Matthew 5:43-48 (NLT2)

⁴³ "You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! ⁴⁵ In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the [fields of the] just and the unjust alike. ⁴⁶ If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. ⁴⁷ If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. ⁴⁸ But you are to be perfect [mature], even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

In these verses we have, in essence, the single greatest Christian ethic—an ethic that differentiates the *Christian* from the *world* as nothing else can.

I think if there is any one principle that best sums up what separates Christians from the non-Christians is the one that Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount when He commanded us as His people to—"*love our enemies*".

This folks, is the 'Mount Everest' of Christian virtue—the absolute pinnacle of Christian living.

If love is the greatest thing (1 Corinthians 13)—then loving our enemies is the greatest thing love can do!

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus is laying out for us the principles of Kingdom living and the climax of all that He said is Matthew 5:44 when He told us to love our enemies as God loved His enemies—which at one time included every one of us!

This is the ultimate goal we should be striving for because nothing identifies us more with our Heavenly Father than loving our enemies—

Romans 5:8 (NLT)

⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners [His enemies].

When we studied the Sermon on the Mount a few years ago, we saw how that Jesus essentially built (the greatest sermon of all time) around two all-important statements.

These two statements are kind of obscure in the sense that many Christians breeze right over them without noticing their significance—and yet they really sum up the heart of what Jesus was saying to those who claim to be members of God’s Kingdom on earth.

The **first** one is in verse 47 of Matthew Chapter 5— “**...what do you do more than others?**”

- In other words, the Lord was saying,
 “What does your religious system have more than any other?”
- *What sets you apart from them? What makes you different?”*

And the **second** statement comes out of Chapter 6 verse 8—“**Therefore do not be like them.**”

In some ways these two statements sum up the whole sermon and in fact our whole Christian experience—*“What do you do more than others?”* and *“Do not be like them.”* What Jesus is saying in both of these simple, yet all-encompassing statements is this—

“When all is said and done, what makes you, as a Christian, different from anybody else”—or in other words, “What sets you apart from the world?”

To which many Christians respond—

- *“We go to church”—*a lot of religious people go to church or to synagogue or to a temple or mosque that don’t know the true and living God and are not His people.
- *“We worship God”—*a lot of people worship their concept of god.
- *“We serve the Lord”—*a lot of religious people serve their gods.
- *“We have morals”—*a lot of religious and secular people have morals.
- *“We evangelize”—*a lot of people reach out to people to join their group.
- *“Well, we Christians are willing to die for our God”—*do I need to remind anyone here about 9/11?

None of those things necessarily differentiates Christians from other groups.

But the one thing that does separate Christians and Christianity from all other people and religions in the world is that—we have the love of God in us and because of it we love our enemies and want to see them saved.

This love was given to us by the Holy Spirit the moment we accepted Jesus as our Savior—at which time Romans 5:5 tells us the Holy Spirit ‘moved in’ and poured the love of God into our hearts!

A few days ago, I was talking to someone about the Iran war and how that Muslims fight against those who refuse to become Muslims because the foundational tenet of Islamic faith is that the whole world must be Islamized (converted to Islam) before there can be world peace.

Therefore, the only options that Muslims offer non-Muslims (infidels) is to *‘convert or die.’*

Then he said to me, “Don’t Christians want to see the whole world Christianized (become Christians)—so how’s that different from Muslims?” (*Listen for explanation)

**God’s love is a supernatural love that finds its highest expression
when we use it to love our enemies.**

Now of course this sounds like utter lunacy to the people of this world—“Love my enemies?! I’m not interested in loving my enemies, the only thing I want to do with my enemies is destroy them!”

I read once how a Massachusetts congressman named Thaddeus Stevens bitterly wished to ‘crush’ the South after the South lost to the North in the Civil War.

When he heard President Lincoln stress the importance of binding up the wounds of the nation by forgiving and reconciling—Stevens was furious and pounded his fist on the cabinet table and shouted, “Mr. Lincoln, I think enemies ought to be destroyed!”

To which President Lincoln quietly responded, “Mr. Stevens, do I not destroy my enemy when I make him my friend?”

This gets into something Paul said in Romans 12—

Romans 12:9, 14, 17–21 (NLT)

⁹ Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them...

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you. Don’t curse them; pray that God will bless them...

¹⁷ Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. ¹⁸ Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, “I will take revenge; I will pay them back,” says the Lord. ²⁰ Instead, “If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink...

²¹ Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

Look, the world can repay ‘evil for evil’ and ‘good for good’—and more and more we see the world repaying ‘evil for good’—but only a child of God has the capacity to consistently repay ‘good for evil’ and ‘love for hate’.

Loving your physical family and friends and hating your enemies is natural for the people of the world—but loving your enemies is a supernatural ethic that only the children of God can demonstrate.

Again, Paul said in Romans 5:5 that this is a love that comes from God and has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation. It is the love of God more than anything else that demonstrates to the people of this world that we belong to Him—

John 13:34-35 (NKJV)

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love [agape] for one another.”

As important as loving our fellow Christians is in revealing to the people of this world that we belong to God—nothing causes our light to shine brighter than when we love our enemies!

Unfortunately—sometimes those “enemies” are members of our own families who need us to love them by forgiving them for what they have done to us.

Now, I can just imagine some of you saying to yourselves, “I’ll forgive them when they’ve earned my forgiveness!”

Listen, forgiveness isn’t *earned* it’s bestowed—as when Jesus, from the cross, bestowed forgiveness upon those who put Him there (Luke 23:34). In other words, forgiveness is a *gift* we give to those who have hurt or wronged us—not a reward we give to those who have *earned* or that *deserve* our forgiveness.

God gave to us forgiveness and eternal life which we could never have earned and by no means deserved—it was (and is) a gift! (Ephesians 2:8-9)

If you remember, this whole series began as a New Years message to start 2026.

You might be sitting there thinking that loving others more (especially your enemies)—wasn’t really on your list of the things you were hoping to see changed in this new year.

Maybe your hope for the new year was to get out of debt or depression and find joy. Others of you might have had as your goal for this new year to stop drinking or taking drugs and find true peace. Some of you might have had the goal for the new year to cultivate more self-control in the area of eating, using your time more wisely, or to stop looking at junk on the internet.

Here I’m teaching you that loving others more (even and especially your enemies)—should be your main goal for this new year!

But whether you realize it or not, obeying the command to love God supremely (Mark 12:30) which then lays the foundation to obey the command, “**Let everything you do be done with love**”—is the answer to everything you were hoping this new year would bring.

- It will help you to spend your money more wisely and get out of debt (Matthew 6:19-20).
- It will help you find the joy you’re looking for by loving God more and drawing closer to Him—because in His presence is fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11).

As you draw closer to God, you’re going to find new strength and desire to stop looking to drugs and alcohol to find peace because you’ll find true peace in your relationship with Jesus (John 14:27)!

You will experience victory over wasted time (by using that time to serve God!) you’ll find new strength and desire to eat healthier, and to stop looking at things on the internet that will tear you down rather than build you up!

Loving God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength (which includes loving your spouse more, your family more and even your enemies)—will radically change the course of your Christian life!

Again, the word for “**love**” in 1 Corinthians 13:14 is *agape*. *Agape* is a love that only comes from God—it’s inherent to His nature and to His nature alone.

The only way to have it within us is to be connected to God—first through *salvation* and then as a Christian by staying connected to Him every day in *fellowship*.

Jesus said, “If you abide in Me, you will bear much fruit.” (John 15:5)

The first fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22 is—LOVE.

The more we remain connected to Jesus in daily fellowship (abiding in Him)—the more God’s love grows in our lives (the ‘fruit of the Spirit’) in a supernaturally, natural way. But understand, the whole purpose of God filling us with His love is so that it would be manifested in our lives—to benefit others.

Remember, that the whole purpose of a fruit tree is to bear fruit for others to benefit from.

The Christian life is really not about us being happy or fulfilled or successful—we are not the focus. The whole purpose of the Christian life is to bring God glory (manifesting His character to this world) and help others to come to know Him. We do that by loving them as Jesus loved us—by dying to self and loving others sacrificially.

One pastor said—

“This is the greatest evidence of God’s presence and work among us—love. Since no one has seen God at any time, this provides evidence for the presence of God.

Some people think the greatest evidence of God’s presence or work is power. Some people think the greatest evidence of God’s presence or work is popularity. Some people think the greatest evidence of God’s presence or work is passionate feelings. But the greatest evidence of God’s presence and work is love.

Where God is present and working, there will be love.

Sometimes Jesus seemed weak and lacking in power, but He was always full of love. Sometimes Jesus wasn’t popular at all, but He was always full of love. Sometimes Jesus didn’t inspire passionate feelings in people at all, but He was always full of love. Love was the constant, the greatest evidence of the presence and work of God in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

And so, with that in mind make this command be what drives your life in this new year—**“Let all that you do be done with love!”**

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

Let all *that you do* be done with love.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower— please, reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Reach out to us [here](#).

Catch this weeks’ audio, video, study and sermon notes [HERE](#).