

The Three Most Important Virtues Part 5

R. Tyrone Myles

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Theme Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:13 (Amplified Bible)

*And now there remain: faith [abiding trust in God and His promises], **hope [confident expectation of eternal salvation], love [unselfish love for others growing out of God's love for me], these three [the choicest graces]; but the greatest of these is love.***

Love

Why is love the greatest of the three virtues?

1 John 4:16 (Amplified Bible)

We have come to know [by personal observation and experience], and have believed [with deep, consistent faith] the love which God has for us. **God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides continually in him.**

1. Love is the greatest of the three virtues because God is love.
2. Love comes from the Greek word agape, which describes *a divine love that gives and gives, even if it's never responded to, thanked, or acknowledged.*
3. If we live in love, God lives in us.

The Love of God Empowers Us

Ephesians 3:16-19 (New Living Translation)

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into **God's love** and keep you strong. ¹⁸ **And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.** ¹⁹ **May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.**

1. God's love makes and keeps us strong in Him.
2. May we have the power to understand and should understand how wide, how long, how high, and how deep is the love of God.
3. May we come to know or experience the love of Christ.
4. The love of Christ goes beyond our understanding or knowledge.
5. Then, we will have the fullness of God's life and power in us.

The Greatest Act of God that Shows God Loves Us

John 3:16-17

¹⁶ "For God so [greatly] loved *and* dearly prized the world, that He [even] gave His [One and] only begotten Son, so that whoever believes *and* trusts in Him [as Savior] shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge *and* condemn the world [that is, to initiate the final judgment of the world], but that the world might be saved through Him.

Let us seek God more so that His love will make us strong in Him.