

Love like Jesus

I. Introduction-

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. I Cor 13:1 NIV

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. I Cor 13:13

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” Jn 13:34

Love; agape, ag-ah'-pay: enthusiastic, sacrificial affection for or from another

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Phil 2:3

II. God's love is holy and supernatural-

A. God's love flows our His nature, His heart and His Spirit-

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” Isa 6:3

He said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground. Ex 3:5

He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct. I Pet 1:15

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”— I Cor 2:9

Holy; sacred, holy, Holy One, set apart. Without blemish

We have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. I Jn 4:16

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Gal 5:22

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. I Cor 13:1

B. Human love is selfish and prideful-

If our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. II Cor 4:3

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? Jer 17:9

You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived. Eph 2:1

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Rom 3:23

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. I Jn 1:8

C. To experience God's love Gods has to be in us-

Be careful then about your spirit, and *see that none of you* deals treacherously against the wife of your youth.

“For I hate divorce,” says the LORD, the God of Israel. Mal 2:15

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, - In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. Eph 5:25

D. Take a honest and fearless personal inventory-

Search me, God, and know my heart; Put me to the test and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there is *any* hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way. Ps 139:23

“The heart is more deceitful than all else, And is desperately sick; Who can understand it? “I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, To give to each person according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds. Jer 17:9

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Gal 5:22

1. Ask God to search our hearts and our relationship with Him-

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! II Cor 13:5

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. I Cor 11:27

Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Mat 6:20

10 Evidences that Christ and the Holy Spirit are in us-

<https://cdn.subsplash.com/documents/74GPWZ/source/c19c95f2-bbf6-49c5-9765-57580d865267/document.pdf>

2. Ask God examine our relationships with others-

You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Mat 5:21

III. Showing the supernatural love of God on the mean streets of life-

A. Loving our enemies-

1. Forgive and bless your enemies-

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. Mat 5:43

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son. Rom 5:8

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Mat 6:14

<https://www.gotquestions.org/love-neighbor-yourself.html>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/love-enemies.html>

2. Overcome evil with good-

To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Rom 12:20

You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Mat 5:38

3. The know the cost of unforgiveness -

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Eph 4:26
kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Eph 4:3

Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart." Mat 18:21 & 35

B. Keeping our love fresh-

"I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. Rev 2:2

1. Remember the deeds we did at first?

The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." Lk 18:11

2. Are we thankful to serve Jesus and others or do we feel entitled?

You also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty. Lk 17:10

Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness. Rom 4:4

3. Do we have a passion to tell others about what Jesus is doing for us?

Then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs. Mk 16:19

4. Are we still with Jesus on the mountain top and in the valley?

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. Jn 15:1

5. Do we repent of our sins out of love for Jesus for His paying for our sins?

John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Mat 3:1

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Mat 4:17
He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. I Pet 2:24
Repent; to change one's mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins