

# Abundant Life: The Love Cycle: Learning to Love Others

When we love each other, God lives in us, and His love is fully expressed.

## God “IS” Love

### **1 John 4:7-21 New Living Translation Loving One Another**

7 Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. 8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

- God “IS” love, so love exists without any of us. So the word “IS” in this Bible verse gives me so much hope.
- Both God and love are capable of functioning without us. They are both powerful all by themselves. So I’m hopeful this will help you like it’s done for me.

9 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

11 Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. 12 No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. 13 And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us.

- Since God lives in you, the key is to not resist love, but to say your will be done. His will is to love, because He is love.
- Love doesn’t come from you, it come through you.
- Romans 5:5 New Living Translation

And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

- We have been made one with God working together in love.
- James 1:18-20 New Living Translation
- 18 He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.[a] 19 Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. 20 Human anger[b] does not produce the righteousness[c] God desires.
- We have to be slow enough to allow the love of God to move.

14 Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. 16 We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. 17 And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.

- To walk in love is to walk in God's light and obey his commands.
- If you love me, obey my commandment takes on a whole new meaning.
- Loving God keeps us in the light, so we have no fear of judgment.

18 Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. 19 We love each other[a] because he loved us first. 20 If someone says, "I love God," but hates a fellow believer,[b] that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? 21 And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.[c]

### *Prayer:*

"God you are love, and I welcome you into my life. Help me to not resist the compassion you desire to show others. I'd like to better recognize when I'm not

operating in love. I agree to allow your essence to be present in me. In Jesus name, amen.”

## Love “IS” God

- The more you learn about love’s capabilities, the more you can allow God to display it in your lives. In order to show love, you have to know love. Read verses about love and commit them to memory. Hide them in your heart. You’ll be better able to stop opposing love, and allow the “IS” of love to “BE”.

### **1 Corinthians 13 New Living Translation Love Is the Greatest**

13 If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn’t love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God’s secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn’t love others, I would be nothing.

- He’s rooting the foundation of His identity in his ability to love. Why? Because God is love, and we are children of God, therefore children of love.

3 If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it;[a] but if I didn’t (learn to) love others, I would have gained nothing. 4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.

- Since love “IS”, our only job when it comes to love, is to let love “BE”. Love is the very essence and will of God. All you have to do is not resist! Let love do what love does! So love isn’t something we perform, but rather permit.

6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. 8 Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages[b] and

special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! 9 Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! 10 But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless. 11 When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. 12 Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.[c] All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely. 13 Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

### **The Love Cycle, Full Circle**

John 15:12-14

New Living Translation

12 This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. 13 There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command.

2 Corinthians 5:19-21 New Living Translation

19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. 20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" 21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin,[a] so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

- Laying down your life, and allowing God to use it, allows you to complete the love cycle.
- The final step is bringing someone else into the knowledge of God's love for them, so that they will love God back, love themselves righteously, and introduce someone else to the love of God.

