

LOVE: THE CHRISTIANS RESPONSIBILITY

Introduction

Greatest commandment

New commandment

Goal of Paul's instruction

I. The Definition (meaning) of Love

- A. ἀγαπάω --to esteem, love, indicating a direction of the will and finding one's joy in something or someone vs. _____ to love, indicating Feelings, warm affection
- B. ἀγάπη --love, affectionate regard, good will, benevolence
- C. ἀγαπητός --beloved, dear
- D. Love (ἀγάπη) is a decision of the will to seek the highest good for a person, principle, or thing by a sacrificial giving of oneself and possessions, whether material or non-material.
- E. Lust (ἐπιθυμία) is a strong desire to receive benefit at another's expense.

II. The Derivation (source) of Love

A. God's example

1. The Father's love

a. His attribute—God is love

I Jn. 4:8—"the one who does not love does not know God for God is love"

I Jn. 4:16—"...God is love and the one who abides in love abides in God..."

II Cor. 13:11—"...the God of love and peace shall be with you"

b. His action

1.) God loves the Son

a.) Col. 1:13—"... into the kingdom of (lit.) the Son of His love"

b.) Jn. 17:26—"...that the love wherewith You (Father) love Me (Son)"

c.) Jn. 15:9—"Just as the Father loved Me..."

d.) Jn. 3:35—"The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand"

e.) Jn. 17:24—"...my glory which You have given Me, for You love Me..."

e.) Jn. 10:17—"...the Father loves Me because I may lay down my life..."

2.) God loves sinners

a.) Jn. 3:16—"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."

b.) Rom. 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"

3.) God loves the saints

a.) The degree—Jn. 17:23—"... that the world may know You sent Me and loved them as You loved Me."

b.) The demonstration

(1.) He chose them—Col. 3:12. I Thess. 1:4, II Thess. 2:13,

(2.) "loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope" II Thess. 2:16

(3.) "Made us alive...raised us up...seated us with Him" Eph 2:4-6

(4.) "...love of God is poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us" Rom 5:5 also I Jn. 4:13

(5.) "... that we would be called the children of God I Jn. 3:1

(6.) "...in love He predestined us to adoption as sons..." Eph. 1:4-5

(7.) nothing "...will be able to separate us from the love of God..." R. 8:39

(8.) "For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines..." Heb. 12:6

(9.) "... he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him" Jam. 1:12

(10.) "...things which eye has not seen and hear has not heard..."

all that God has prepared for those who love Him" I Cor. 2:9

(11.) "...heirs to the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him Jam. 2:5

2. The Son's love

- a. His attribute—Jesus Christ is God and God is love I Jn. 4:8, 16; II Cor. 13:11
--and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge Ep. 3:19

b. His action

1.) The Son loves the Father

Jn. 14:31-- "but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me..."

Jn. 15:10—"...as I have kept My Father's commands and abide in His love"

2.) The Son loves sinners—He came to earth and became the propitiation for sins I Jn. 2:2

3.) The Son loves saints

a.) Martha, her sister, and Lazarus Jn. 11:5

b.) John Jn. 13:23, 19:26, 21:7

c.) Paul Gal. 2:20

d.) Disciples Jn. 13:1; 15:13, 14, 16; 19:9

e.) Saints Jn. 14:21; Rom. 8:33-37; Eph. 3:19; 5:2; I Jn. 3:16; Rev. 1:5

f.) Church Eph 5:25

4.) The Son loves righteousness Heb. 1:9

3. The Holy Spirit's love

- a. His attribute—the Holy Spirit is God and God is love I Jn. 4:8, 16; II Cor. 13:11
--the fruit of the Spirit is love..." Gal 5:22-23

b. His action

1.) --the fruit of the Spirit is love..." Gal 5:22-23 which He gives to those who walk by Him

2.) "...the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us Rom. 5:5

3.) "Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to Strive together with me in your prayers to God for me." Rom. 15:30

B. God's enablement

1. "...for love is from God and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God" I Jn. 4:7

2. "...if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us" I Jn. 4:12

3. "By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit I Jn. 4:13

4. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love..." Gal 5:22-23

5. "...love of God is poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us" Rom 5:5,
I Jn. 4:13

III. The Description (characteristics) of Love I Cor. 13:4-8a

A. Patient

B. Kind

C. Not jealous

D. Not brag

E. Not arrogant

F. Not act unbecomingly

G. Not seek its own

H. Not provoked

I. Not take into account a wrong

J. Not rejoice in unrighteousness

K. Rejoices in the truth

L. Bears all things

M. Believes all things

N. Hopes all things

O. Endures all things

P. Never fails

IV. The Directive (command) of Love

A. Love God

1. Love the Lord your God

V. The Degree (extent) of Love

A. Love God

1. With all your heart
2. With all your soul
3. With all your mind
4. With all your strength
(Mk. 12:28-34, Matt. 22:37, Lu. 10:27)

VI. The Demonstration (manifestation) of Love

A. Love God

1. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments-I Jn. 5:3 keep His word I Jn. 2:5
 - a. Believe in His Son
 - b. Love one another I Jn. 3:23
2. And this is the commandment we have from Him, that he who loves God loves His brother also-I Jn. 4:21
3. The one who abides in love abides in God I Jn. 4:16
4. There is no fear in love, perfect love casts out fear-I Jn. 4:18
5. Has confidence in the days of judgment I Jn. 3:17
6. If God were your Father you would love Me (the Son) Jn. 8:42

2. Love Christ

- a. you will keep my commandments/ words-Jn. 14:15,23

2. Love Christ

- a. If you love me-Jn. 14:15,23
- b. Grace be with those who love our Lord Jesus Christ

3. Love the Holy Spirit

(see A above)

3. Love the Holy Spirit

- a. Do not grieve Eph. 4:20
- b. Do not quench the Spirit I Th. 5:19
- c. Follow/walk by the Spirit Gal. 5: 16, 18, 26
- d. Be filled Eph. 5:18

B. Love your neighbor

1. Love your neighbor

B. Love your neighbor

1. as yourself
Mk 12:31,33; Matt 19:19; 22:39;
Gal. 5:14

B. love your neighbor

1. Does no wrong to a neighbor Rom. 13:10
 - a. shows no partiality Jam. 2:9
 - b. does not bite and devour Gal 5:15
- c. Prov. 3:29,30
2. Does good
 - a. Good Samaritan
 - b. Prov. 3:27-28

IV. Directive (command) to love

C. Love One Another

1. Love one another
2. Let love be
3. except to love one another
4. Love
5. in love
6. love
7. love
8. but through love
9. in love
10. in love
11. in love
12. walk in love

13. "I pray that your love

14. "love for one another/all people
15. "the love of the brethren

16. in love
17. love
18. love

D. Love your wives

1. Husbands love your wives

2. Husbands love your wives

E. Love your enemies

- Love your enemies

V. Degree (extent) of love

C. Love one another

1. even as I have loved you Jn. 15:12
2. without hypocrisy Rom. 12:8

3. with humility, gentleness, patience

4. just as Christ loved you, and gave

Himself up for us Eph. 5:2

5. may abound more and more Phil. 1:9

6. maintaining the same love Phil. 2:2

7. Lord cause you to increase and abound

8. taught of God/excel still more I Th. 4:9, 10

9. sincere, fervently from the heart I Pet. 1:22

D. love your wives

1. As Christ loved the church Eph. 5:25

2. As their own bodies Eph. 5:28

3. As himself Eph. 5:32

VI. Demonstration (manifestation) of love

C. Love one another

1. owe nothing to anyone Rom. 13:9
2. edifies I Cor. 8:1

3. let all you do be done I Cor. 16:14

4. reaffirm love for him II Cor. 2:8

5. proving the sincerity/showing the proof II Cor. 8

6. serving one another Gal. 5:13

7. showing forbearance Eph. 4:2

8. speaking the truth Eph. 4:15

9. building itself up Eph. 4:16

10. no immorality, greed, filthiness, silly talk
coarse jesting Eph. 4:3, 4

11. appreciate, esteem them very highly I Th. 5:12, 13

12. lay down our lives... word and truth I Jn. 3:16-18

D. Love your wives

1. gave himself up for her Eph. 5:25

2. nourishes and cherishes it Eph. 5:29

3. do not be embittered against them

Col. 3:19

4. live with your wives in understanding

5. grant her honor as a fellow heir I Pet. 3:7.

E. Love your enemies

1. pray Matt. 5:44; Lu. 6:28

2. do good Lu. 6:27, 35

3. bless Lu. 6:28

4. lend Lu. 6:35

F. Love His appearing—"...there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness... but also for all who have loved his appearing" II Tim. 4:8

VII. The Denial (refusal) of love

- A. Do not love the world—"Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him I Jn. 2:15

- B. Do not love darkness—"...the Light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil I Jn. 3:19

- C. Do not love wealth—"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other or he will Devoted to one and despise the other. You can not serve God and wealth." Matt. 6:24

- D. Do not love the place of prominence—"Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the chief seats in the synagogues, And the respectable greetings in the market places: Lu. 11:43

- E. Do not love the approval of men-"for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God" Jn. 12:43

- F. Do not love the wages of unrighteousness—"... Balaam... who loved the wages of unrighteousness II Pet. 2:15