



Love

by Fredlyne Black

Love: the Sum of All Virtue

I John 4:7-8, Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for GOD IS LOVE.

“Love appears to be the sum of all the virtue and duty that God requires of us, and therefore must undoubtedly be the most essential thing.” Jonathan Edwards

No fruit of the Spirit can be produced by man's effort. It is the manifestation of the new creation in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17, *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature . . .*) Love is the ultimate test whereby we know that we are born of God. (2 Corinthians 13:5, *Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!*)

“Love through me, Love of God,
There is NO love in me
O fire of love, light Thou the love
That burns perpetually.”
Amy Carmichael

Love: the Greatest Fruit

- In 1 Corinthians 13:13, Love is named as the greatest of all.
- In Colossians 3:14, Love is named as the perfect bond of unity.
- In Romans 13:10, Love is named as the fulfillment of the law.

Love: the Fulfillment of All Law and Commandments

“Whether we take the law as signifying only the ten commandments, or as including the whole written word of God, the Scriptures teach us that the sum of all that is required in it is LOVE.” Jonathan Edwards

Romans 13:8, . . . *he who loves his neighbor has **fulfilled the law.***

1 Timothy 1:5, . . . *now the **purpose of the commandment** is love from a pure heart . . . (NKJV)*

Matthew 22:37-40, *You shall love the Lord . . . You shall love your neighbor . . . on these **two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.***

Galatians 5:14, *For the **whole Law is fulfilled** in one word, in the statement, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

James 2:8, *If, however, you are **fulfilling the royal law** according to the Scripture, 'you shall love your neighbor as yourself,' you are doing well.*

Romans 13:10, . . . *therefore love is the **fulfillment of the law.***

Love: the Biblical Definition

John 15:13, *Greater love has no one than this that one lay down his life for his friends.*

Ephesians 5:2, . . . *walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.*

Biblical love corresponds to the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is the love which the Holy Spirit produces, which is Christ in us. Christ-like love is **giving**, not getting.

- God **GAVE** His only begotten Son. (John 3:16)
- The Lord Jesus Christ loved us and **GAVE** Himself for us. (Galatians 1:3-4)
- The Lord Jesus **GAVE** Himself a ransom on our behalf. (1 Timothy 2:5-6)

“Christian love, is not an impulse from the feelings, it does not always run with the natural inclinations, nor does it spend itself only upon those for whom some affinity is discovered. Love seeks the welfare of all and works no ill to any. Love seeks opportunity to do good to all men, especially toward the household of the faith.”

Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words

Love is seeking the good and blessing of another through the act of denying self for the other's sake; born out of a motivation to glorify God.

Love: the Characteristic of God's Children

Ephesians 5:1, *Therefore be imitators of God, as **beloved children**, and walk in love just as Christ also loved you . . .*

1 John 4:7, . . . *love is from God and everyone who loves is **born of God** . . .*

John 13:34-35, *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another even as I have loved you . . . by this all men will know that you are **My disciples** . . .*

“The test of Christianity is not morality, but love. We are called to love our enemies and pray for them which despitely use us and persecute us. In other words, apply to others what Christ has done to us.”

Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Love: the Great Imperative

1 John 4:8, *The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

The greatest blessing of love is the blessing it brings to us. The greatest curse of hate is the corrosion it leaves upon our own soul. Love is not only duty, but love is life.

Love is the ultimate fruit of the Spirit. As we abide in Christ by faith we find that *...the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us* (Romans 5:5).