

Loving One Another

1 John 3:10-15 and 4:7-21

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1 John Chapter 2 gives us a “test” of knowing Him in Verses 3-11.

He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

1 John 2:4-5

If I truly know Jesus, I will seek to obey and follow Him. That is what love does. True love wants to be in a right fellowship with their object.

So before we go further we must answer the question, “What is love?”

Three words in the Bible to do with love:

Philia – a brotherly love.

Eros – an “intimate” love.

Agape – Faithfulness, commitment and an act of the will.

1 Corinthians describes this agape love.

God himself is love - He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1 John 4:8

“The type of love that characterizes God is not a sappy, sentimental feeling such as we often hear portrayed. God loves because that is His nature and the expression of His being. He loves the unlovable and the unlovely, not because we deserve to be loved or because of any excellence we possess, but because it is His nature to love and He must be true to His nature.”¹

1) True love comes from abiding in Christ.

In Chapters 3 and 4 of 1 John the word “love” is almost always translated “agape.”

We can only have such love by knowing AND walking with Jesus.

Abide (as used in the Bible): to stay/ wait--- abide (16), abides (22), abiding (4), await (1), continue (4), continues (1), endures (3), enduring (1), lasting (2), lives (1), living (1), remain (20), remained (6), remaining (1), remains (8), stand (1), stay (11), stayed (11), staying (3), waiting (1).

This is present active voice – menei.

Why is this important? As an active voice it is to be an active action.

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

1 John 3:14

No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

1 John 4:12

¹ “What is Agape Love” (www.gotquestions.org)

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. **John 15:4-5**

To truly love/know Christ means that I am in a growing and intimate relationship with Him. I cannot be in such a relationship and not be changed and not grow more like Jesus.

If I am abiding in Christ then I can love anyone.

2) True love is a choice, not a feeling.

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us.

1 John 3:16

He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." **Matthew 26:39**

Jesus gave His life it was not taken!

3) True love results in an action.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **John 3:16**

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **1 John 4:9-10**

Love is always more than words. True love = actions!

4) True love goes against OUR will and OUR nature.

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?

Jeremiah 17:9

At our very nature we are evil people!

There is none righteous, no, not one.

Romans 3:10

Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war.

James 4:1-2a

The essence of Christian life is that it is to be directed precisely toward the unlovable, the unlovely, even toward the hostile (Matt 5:44-48), for such is the character of the love God has revealed to us. **(The Interpreter's Bible)**

Prayer Focus:

Am I abiding (remaining in Jesus, moment by moment)?

Am I, through Jesus choosing to love?

Is such love resulting in action?

Am I yielding to God's Will or mine?

Who today do you need to love that you haven't been? (Be kind, show respect, love, pray for etc.)