

Add to Your Faith...

Love

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2 Peter 1:2-11 (NKJV)

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, **3** as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, **4** by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust

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2 Peter 1:2-11 (NKJV)

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

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Love is

- The greatest command

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Matthew 22:36–40 (NKJV)

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” **37** Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ **38** This is the first and great commandment. **39** And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ **40** On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

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Love is

- The greatest command
- A step above brotherly kindness

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Love and Brotherly Kindness

“Whereas **brotherly kindness** is concern for others’ needs, **love** ... is desiring the highest good for others.”

“**friendship** [and the related concept, **brotherly kindness**] wants reciprocity, does not take root except within a defined group of persons ... and above all between persons of the same standing. [Whereas **love**] unites God and humans and extends even to enemies”

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Love is

- The greatest command
- A step above brotherly kindness
- Something we learn from God

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1 John 4:9-11 (NKJV)

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. **10** 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. **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

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Love is

- The greatest command
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- Something we learn from God
- Desiring the highest good of others

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Love is

- The greatest command
- A step above brotherly kindness
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- Desiring the highest good of others
- A duty we have to God and men, and even our enemies

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John Wesley on Love

The love which our Lord requires in all his followers, is the love of God and man;—of God, for his own [sake], and of man, for God's sake. Now, what is it to love God, but to delight in him, to rejoice in his will, to desire continually to please him, to seek and find our happiness in him, and to thirst day and night for a fuller enjoyment of him?

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John Wesley on Love

As to the measure of this love, our Lord hath clearly told us, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart.” Not that we are to love or delight in none but him: For he hath commanded us, not only to love our neighbour, that is, all men, as ourselves;—to desire and pursue their happiness as sincerely and steadily as our own,—

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John Wesley on Love

but also to love many of his creatures in the strictest sense; to delight in them, to enjoy them: [but to enjoy neighbors and creatures] only in such a manner and measure as we know and feel, not to [prevent] but to prepare us for the enjoyment of Him. Thus, then, we are called to love God with all our heart.

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Matthew 5:43–48 (NKJV)

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ **44** But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, **45** that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. **46** For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? **47** And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? **48** Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

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Love is

- The greatest command
- A step above brotherly kindness
- Something we learn from God
- Desiring the highest good of others
- A duty we have to God and men, and even our enemies
- Is what makes any good we do worthwhile

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1 Corinthians 13:1-2 (NKJV)

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. **2** And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

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Love is

- Beautiful, powerful and costly

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1 Corinthians 13:4–7 (NKJV)

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; **5** does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; **6** does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; **7** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

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Love is

- Beautiful, powerful and costly
- The crown of the Christian graces

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1 Corinthians 13:13 (NKJV)

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

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- Is what makes any good we do worthwhile
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