

RGD Topic #13 Love: The Hallmark of a Follower of Jesus 11/24/2019

“Love” in the Bible

The primary Old Testament Hebrew words translated “love” are *ahab* and *chesed*. In the New Testament, the Greek words *agape* and *phileo* are used to speak of both human and divine love.

AHAB—“to desire, delight in” someone or something—a longing for
(Gen 22:2; Ruth 4:15; Ex 21:5; Deut 7:13; 2 Sam 1:26)

CHESED—“loving kindness, loyalty” God’s faithful, covenant love for His people—His commitment to show them goodness and favor. (Psalm 17:7; 63:3; Gen 24:49; 2 Sam 2:5)

Biblical Truths About Love

1) Love originates in God because he is love.

“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. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

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. 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.

Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. (1 John 4:7–11)

God’s love is an exercise of His goodness towards individual sinners whereby, having identified Himself with their welfare, He has given His son to be their Savior, knowing and enjoying Him in a covenant relationship. *J.I. Packer “Knowing God”*

2) The spiritual life can be boiled down to one word: love.

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:28–31)

Seven areas we can love the Lord in:

- 1) Our desires: “Be careful little eyes what you see...”
- 2) Our affections: Love what God Loves—people, His word, Him!
- 3) Our purposes: S.H.A.P.E. missional/occupational(student) callings
- 4) Our will: Make the right choices, follow through, walk humbly
- 5) Our feelings: Be lead by the Truth not your feelings
- 6) Our character: Pursue holiness, love; draw near, resist Satan
- 7) Our thoughts/attitudes—Rom 12/ Phil 2—Renew mind/heart

3) Love is more an action than an emotion.

“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth” (1 John 3:18).

Six essentials for special relationship success:

- 1) Self-discipline—Are you mature enough to begin a SR? Prov 25:28
- 2) Lust is not love—Are you feeding your forbidden desire(s)? Gal 5:24
- 3) Listen to wise counsel—Do you seek/follow trusted advice? Prov 11:14
- 4) Believe when their true colors are seen—Do you have keen discernment?
Are you a good judge of character? Are you afraid to leave the relationship?
- 5) Looks can be deceiving—Are you controlled by what only looks good on the outside? “The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” 1 Sam 16:7
- 6) God never fails to reveal red flags: Are you ignoring them? Compromising?
Flags: 1. Not a person of the same faith: “Do not become unequally yoked together with unbelievers.” 2 Cor 6:14 It’s not good for you or them!
2. Intensity, jealousy, manipulation, isolation, rude, making fun of you, guilt, volatility, blaming you for their actions, betrayal—lying/not loyal, emotionally unstable.
3. Don’t keep their promise—lack of respect for you Mt 5:37; Mt 7:7
4. Don’t admit their mistakes—lack of humility James 4:6; Prov 28:13

NOTE: “Love” is **not enough of a reason** to get married. It requires... (see above)

4) God's love is Unconditional and Sacrificial. (US)

*"For this is how God loved the **world**: He gave his one and only Son, so that **everyone** who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. Jn 3:16*

*"But God clearly shows and proves His own love for us, by the fact that while we were **still sinners**, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8*

*"Whoever shall **call upon** the name of the Lord will be saved." Rom 10:13*

Lessons from the Parable of the Good Samaritan

- 1) Set aside prejudice and show love.
- 2) Our neighbor is anyone we encounter in need.
- 3) We cannot save ourselves.

Pride is Putting our Rights, Riches, Respect as our goal Instead of Depending on our Eternal God—worshipping Him (not ourselves by acquiring possessions and attaining achievements), thinking we are more important than others.

1. How did God's truth speak to you this morning?

2. What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result?

Life application questions in order of the points on page 1 and the chart:

Love in the Bible: Do you have that committed, loyal, faithful love to show people goodness in spite of their behavior? Why or why not?

- 1) How do we become better at loving others? Where does this source of love come from and how do we get it?
- 2) What does it mean to love the Lord with all your soul?
- 3) Why do we need to follow up our loving words with actions? What does it mean, "in truth?" Hint: Eph 4:15
- 4) Why do we put restrictions on the extent of our love? Why is it dependent on a condition, i.e. a) "If you do this or act a certain way... then I will love you." b) Because you are so.... I love you!" ?
- 5) Which ones on the list on the left do you have the most difficulty with? Pray for one another. **Do you struggle with prejudice? Why?**
- 6) The Bible says, *"But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..."* Matt 5:44 Do it now by name.
- 7) What can you do to serve others more sacrificially this week? Jesus says, *"Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too."* Phil 2:4 **What kind of love do you struggle with? see chart at bottom right**

TO LOVE:

Our neighbor

Leviticus 19:18

The strangers and foreigners who reside in our midst

Leviticus 19:34; Deut 10:19

The Lord our God

Deuteronomy 6:5; 10:12

God's salvation

Psalms 18:1–2

Justice

Psalms 99:4

God's law and commandments

Psalms 119:47, 97, 113, 127, 140

The name of God

Psalms 119:132

Wisdom

Proverbs 4:5–6

Discipline

Proverbs 12:1

Those who reprove or correct us

Proverbs 15:12

Good

Amos 5:15

Kindness

Micah 6:8

Our enemies

Matthew 5:44

Fellow disciples

John 13:34

All God's people

Ephesians 1:15

Your wife Eph 5:25; Col 3:19

The Lord Jesus Christ Eph 6:24

Our brothers and sisters in Christ

1 Thes 4:9; Heb 13:1; 1 Peter 1:22

The second coming of Christ

2 Timothy 4:8

(To young wives and mothers) **Your husband and children** Titus 2:4

NOT TO LOVE:

Violence

Psalms 11:5

Cursing others

Psalms 109:17

Being simple-minded

Proverbs 1:22

Transgression

Proverbs 17:19

Sleep

Proverbs 20:13

Pleasure

Proverbs

21:17

Wine

Proverbs 21:17

Money

Ecclesiastes 5:10; 1 Timothy 3:3; 6:10;

Hebrews 13:5

Evil

Amos 5:15

Perjury

Zechariah 8:17

The approval of others more than the approval of God

John 12:43

This present world

2 Timothy 4:10; 1 John 2:15

Conditional "love"

Romans 5:8

Convenient "love"

Luke 6:33

Conceited "love"

Phil 2:3-8; 1 Cor 13:4-7; Rom 15:1-3

"The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

I Tim 1:5

