

Introduction: People need a love they can touch and see

We reflect the heart of God as we love one another:

- We are _____ to love one another.

⁷ Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment—to love one another—is the same message you heard before. ⁸ Yet it is also new. Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it. For the darkness is disappearing, and the true Light is already shining.

1 John 2:7-8

- Our love for one another is _____ that we belong to Christ.

⁹ If anyone claims, “I am living in the Light,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is still living in darkness. ¹⁰ Anyone who loves a fellow believer is living in the Light and does not cause others to stumble. ¹¹ But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness.

1 John 2:9-11

So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God.

1 John 3:10

If we love our brothers and sisters who are believers, it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead.

1 John 3:14

- **God's love is _____ in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.**

⁷ 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. ⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. ¹² No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and His love is brought to full expression in us.

¹³ And God has given us His Spirit as proof that we live in Him and He in us.

1 John 4:7-13

- **We are to love others as _____ loved us.**

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up His life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.

1 John 3:16

- **Love for others is expressed by _____, not by mere words.**

¹⁷ If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person?¹⁸ Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

1 John 3:17-18

- **Love for others is a _____ we make, not always a feeling.**

And this is His commandment: We must believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

1 John 3:23

A personal evaluation from 1 Corinthians 13:

_____ **Love acts patiently.**

A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel.

Proverbs 15:18

_____ **Love acts kindly.**

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32

_____ **Love does not act jealously.**

A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.

Proverbs 14:30

_____ **Love does not act boastful or proud.**

⁵ Your attitude should be the kind that was shown us by Jesus Christ, ⁶ who, though He was God, did not demand and cling to His rights as God, ⁷ but laid aside His mighty power and glory, taking the disguise of a slave and becoming like men. ⁸ And He humbled Himself even further, going so far as actually to die a criminal's death on a cross.

Philippians 2:5-8

_____ **Love does not act rudely.**

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

_____ **Love does not demand its own way.**

³ Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. ⁴ Don't just think about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and in what they are doing.

Philippians 2:3-4

_____ **Love is not easily angered.**

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;

James 1:19

_____ **Love keeps no record of when it has been wronged.**

"I, even I, am the One who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, And I will not remember your sins.

Isaiah 43:25

_____ **Love is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.**

Therefore I esteem right all Your precepts concerning everything, I hate every false way.

Psalms 119:128

_____ **Love never gives up.**

And we urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all men.

1 Thessalonians 5:14

_____ **Love never loses faith.**

¹ "Do not judge lest you be judged. ² "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. ³ "And why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?"

Matthew 7:1-3

_____ **Love is always hopeful.**

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

_____ **Love endures through every circumstance.**

For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

Hebrews 10:36

Discussion Questions:

1. Briefly share a specific time in your life when you've seen God love you in a powerful way through a fellow believer.
2. From what you learned in 1 John, why is loving one another such a high priority? List three reasons why we are to love one another from the heart.
3. The book of 1 John not only tells us "why" loving one another is so important, but it also instructs us on "how" we are to love one another. Of the following three ways we are commanded to love each other, which do you find most challenging?
 - Love others as Christ loves us (sacrificially and practically).
 - Love in actions not merely words.
 - Love as a choice we make, not always a feeling.
4. Share two aspects of the "1 Corinthians evaluation" that reveal the Holy Spirit has poured out His love to others through you.
5. Share one area of your life that God revealed to you that needs His grace and help for you to become a more effective vessel of His love. What would it look like to cooperate with the Spirit's work in making you more loving in this area? What practical steps will you take to obey God in this area?