

1. love as it is used in the Bible

Dt. 30:16a For I command you today to love the LORD your God,

Gal. 5:14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

2Jn. 6b As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

1Jn. 3:23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

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Mk. 10:21a Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said.

Lam. 3:22 Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

Lk. 15:20 "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

Jn. 13:34 [Jesus speaking] "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

1Jn. 5:3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,

Ps. 119:47 for I delight in your commands because I love them.

Ps. 19:9b-10 The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.

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Heb. 12:5-11 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Rev. 3:19 [Jesus speaking] Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.

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1Co. 13:4-8a Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

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1Jn. 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

Jn. 15:13-14 [Jesus speaking] Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.

1Jn. 4:9-10 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Rev. 1:5b To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,

2. the origin of all love: GOD

1Jn. 4:7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

1Jn. 4:16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love.

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Jn. 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Ro. 5:6-8 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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Jn. 1:12-13 Yet to all who received him [Jesus], to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

1Jn. 3:1 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Jn. 16:27 [Jesus speaking] No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

Jn. 17:23 [Jesus is praying] I in them and you in me. May they [Jesus' followers] be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Ro. 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ro. 5:10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

QUOTE "Almost all emotional problems could be summed up in one particular kind of behavior. It's a person walking around screaming, 'For God's sake, love me! Love me! Just love me!' He goes through manipulations to get somebody to love him. That's at the core of most emotional sickness."
- Dr. Thomas P. Malone

QUOTE "Love cures all, both the one who gives it and the one who receives it."
- Famed Psychiatrist Dr. Menninger

STORY A father and son in Madrid, Spain, were estranged and the son ran away. The father searched for years and finally put an ad in the city's newspaper. The ad read, "Dear Paco, meet me in front of this newspaper office at noon on Saturday. All is forgiven. I love you." It was signed, "Your Father." That Saturday, 800 young men with the name Paco showed up, looking for forgiveness and love from their fathers.

3. the importance of love

Mt. 22:36-40 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"
Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Mt. 10:37 [Jesus speaking] "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;

1Co. 13:1-3 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Lk. 16:15 He [Jesus] said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight.

1Co. 16:14 Do everything in love.

1Co. 13:13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Gal. 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

4. the command for us to love

Eph. 5:2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

2Pt. 1:5-7 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith... [then Peter lists seven qualities, the last of which is...] love.

Jde. 21 Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

1Ti. 6:11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

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Ro. 5:5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

2Ti. 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

1Jn. 4:19 We love because he first loved us.

Mt. 24:12 [Jesus speaking] Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,

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Lk. 11:42 [Jesus speaking] "Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

Dt. 11:1 Love the LORD your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always.

1Co. 16:22 If anyone does not love the Lord – a curse be on him. Come, O Lord!

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1Jn. 4:19-21 We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Eph. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

verse 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Tit. 2:4 Then they [the older women] can train the younger women to love their husbands and children,

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Jn. 13:34-35 [Jesus speaking] “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Heb. 13:1 Keep on loving each other as brothers.

1Pt. 4:8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

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Ro. 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Gal. 5:13-14 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Jas. 2:8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right.

Mt. 19:19b [Jesus speaking] ...'love your neighbor as yourself.'”

Mt. 16:24-25 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.

Ro. 6:6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin –

1Pt. 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

2Ti. 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

2Ti. 3:1-2 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,

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Mt. 5:43-44 [Jesus speaking] “You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Lk. 6:27-31 [Jesus speaking] “But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

STORY Abraham Lincoln was never treated with more contempt than by a man named Stanton. He called Lincoln “a low cunning clown.” He nicknamed him “the original gorilla” and said that DuChailu was a fool to wander about Africa trying to capture a gorilla when he could have found one so easily at Springfield, Illinois. Lincoln said nothing. He made Stanton his war minister because Stanton was the best man for the job. He treated Stanton with every courtesy. The years wore on. The night came when the assassin's bullet murdered Lincoln in the theater. In the little room to which the President's body was taken there stood that same Stanton that night, and, looking down on the silent face of Lincoln in all its ruggedness, Stanton said through his tears, “There lies the greatest ruler of men the world has ever seen.” The patience of love had conquered in the end.

1Pt. 3:8 Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.

Ro. 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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Mt. 5:45-48 [Jesus speaking] ...that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Lk. 6:32-36 [Jesus speaking] “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

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1Th. 3:12 May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

2Th. 1:3 We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing.

Heb. 10:24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

5. some evidences of loving God

Jn. 14:15 [Jesus speaking] “If you love me, you will obey what I command.

verse 21 Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”

verses 23-24 Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

1Jn. 5:3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,

1Jn. 2:15-17 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does – comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

Col. 3:1-2 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Mt. 6:24 [Jesus speaking] “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

1Ti. 6:6-10 But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Lk. 16:9 [Jesus speaking] I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

2Co. 9:7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

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1Co. 8:1b Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

Eph. 3:17b-19 And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ro. 12:9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Mk. 12:30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

1Co. 16:14 Do everything in love.