

**GROWING IN LOVE**  
**Philippians 1:9-11**  
**2/2/03**

Love is

The greatest commandment

The greatest virtue 1 Cor 13:13

The measure of our Christian maturity

A sign of our spirituality

A fruit of the Spirit

The goal of Paul's instruction 1 Tim 1

1 Timothy 1:5 But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

**1. Prayer For An Ever Increasing Love 1:9a**

**a. We are commanded to love 55 times in the New Testament.**

- One another 1 Peter 2:17; Gal 5:13; John 13:34; Ephesians 4:2
- Neighbor Mt. 22:39
- Wives Ephesians 5:25; Colossians 3:19
- Enemies Mt 5:44
  - ♦ **Luke 6:35** "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil *men*."
  - ♦ **Luke 6:32** "If you love those who love you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners love those who love them."
- ***But what is this love that the Bible is talking about?***

**b. Love involves actively putting the interests of others ahead of yourself. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Ephesians 5:25-29**

- cf Philippians 2:2-4
- It is described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
  - ♦ Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- *True love is the opposite of selfishness.*
  - ♦ *Love involves actively putting the interest of others ahead of yourself.*

**c. Love is giving. 1 John 3:17**

- John 3:16
- cf Galatians 2:20
- 1 John 3:17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

**d. Love is self-sacrificing. 1 John 3:16; Ephesians 5:2**

- 1 John 3:16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.
- Ephesians 5:2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.
- Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

- *True love is the opposite of selfishness.*

♦ *True love is self-sacrificing.*

**e. Love is forgiving. 1 Peter 4:8; Colossians 3:19**

- **1 Peter 4:8** Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.
- **Colossians 3:19** Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.

**f. Love is tolerant of others. Ephesians 4:2**

- **Ephesians 4:2** with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,
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**g. Love serves others. Galatians 5:13; Hebrews 6:10**

- **Galatians 5:13** but through love serve one another.
- **Hebrews 6:10** For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.
- *True love is not selfish.*

♦ *True love serves others.*

**h. Love is willing to give up its rights for others. Romans 14:15**

- **Romans 14:15** For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.
- *True love is not selfish.*

♦ *True love is willing to give up its rights for others.*

**i. Love fulfills the law. Romans 13:8, 10; Galatians 5:14**

- **Romans 13:8** Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled *the* law.
- **Romans 13:10** Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of *the* law.
- **Galatians 5:14** For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

**j. Love results in unity. Colossians 3:14 cf John 13:34-35**

- **Colossians 3:14** Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity.
- **John 13:34-35**
- **John 17:21** that they may all be one; even as You, Father, *are* in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

**k. Love comes to us from God. Romans 5:5; Galatians 5:22**

- **Romans 5:5** the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
- **Galatians 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
- **1 John 4:7** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
- **1 John 4:12** No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

**2. Prayer For A Knowledgeable And Discerning Love 1:9b**

God wants us to have a discerning love, not just emotional sentimentality.

Discerning love sometimes says, "NO!"

**a. Discerning love does not enable laziness and irresponsibility. 2 Thessalonians 3:10**

- 2 Thessalonians 3:10b if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.

**b. Discerning love does not ignore sin. Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:11-13**

- Discerning love confronts sin because it cares about the sinner.
- Matthew 18:15-17 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16 "But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. 17 "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.
- 1 Corinthians 5:11-13

**c. Discerning love does not support false teachers. 2 John 7-11; 2 Corinthians 6:14-17**

**3. The Purpose Of The Prayer 1:10-11**

That you may approve the things that are excellent.

In order that you might be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ.

- Because they have been filled with the fruit of righteousness.
  - ♦ Which comes through Jesus Christ
  - ♦ Which results in praise and glory to God.

**God loves you!!**

**1 John 4:9** By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.