

We usually take this to mean that our love for one another is a witness, people will be saved when they see our love.



On this count how well do you think are we doing?

What kind of things spoil our love one another?

Does this verse apply to people in the church or to people in other churches?

This verse is not directly about evangelism, rather it says that love proves we are disciples. Love here is supposed to promote unity. Openness to new believers and a standard of behaviour between Christians. It works against rivalry.



What effect does it have on other believers when we behave badly towards them?

What effect does it have on unbelievers when we behave badly towards of the believers?



This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. 1 John 3v11

This is my command: Love each other. John 15v17

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves. Romans 12v10

How do you show love for your fellow believers?



"If you love me, you will obey what I command. John 14v15 Cf John 14v16-24

How do you show your love for Jesus?

Do you think this ties in with the greatest command in Deuteronomy?

What commands is he talking about?

If you disobey Jesus commands does that mean you don't love Him?

This may be true, especially if you obey none of Jesus commands! At other times it just means we failed. The enemy would like us to read more into this than we should. The verse does not say failing to obey means failing to love.



Do you think it is significant that Jesus put this in the positive not the negative?

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. John 15v12-13

If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. John 15v10



According to this verse our love leads to obeying Jesus Commandment, but when we do this it enables us to remain in His love. What do you think this means?



Read 1 Corinthians 13v1-8a

Whose love is being described in this passage?

This is divine love, but it is also the love that is to be reflected in our lives.

Why are spiritual gifts useless without love?

Why is ministry useless without love?

How do you exercise prophecy without love?

This was very much the Corinthians problem they lacked no spiritual gift, but they used them badly. That is why this passage on love is sandwiched between chapters on the gifts of the Spirit. Love is how you do the gifts and how you serve. It is the motivation and it is the controlling method.

Does this mean that love is all you need?

Ironically no, love should lead us to do everything.



The verse above says 16 things about love. What does each of them mean?

Can you give an example for each?

Try reading this passage with the word love replaced by your name. - How does it sound?

Why does Paul think that love is so important? Is love a feeling, or an action?



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. But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. 1 Timothy 6v10-11

Is money the root of all evil?

What is the root of all evil?

Why?

What kind of griefs do you think he is talking about?



Read Matthew 6v24

What did Jesus say about this?

How does this connect with this passage?

What is likely to happen if you love money? What should you love instead?



Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 1 John 4v8

What does it mean God is love?

What else could God be?

How does God being love effect the way we do our faith?

Why don't you know God if you don't love?

This is an ontological statement. Love is God's very nature. It is only because God is love that we have the ability to love at all. It is part of what it means to be made in God's image.

Do you think knowing God in this passage is intellectual, relational or practical?

What effect is 'knowing God' intended to have on our lives?



And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. 1 John 4v16

What effect does loving have on us?

What does this mean?

What does it mean to rely on God's love?

What do we rely on God's love for?

What else could we rely on?

What effect is relying on God's love going to have in our lives?

Bible Study

Ten Verses on Love.

1

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:5

This is a consistent call in Deuteronomy, we are to love God.

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What does it mean to Love God with your heart?

What does it mean to Love God with your soul?

What does it mean to Love God with your strength?

This is one of the most important passages in the First Testament. The chapter is fascinating, it mentions many of the responsibilities we have before God. To serve Him, obey Him, fear Him etc. But the one the passage sees as of first importance is to love God.

Why is loving God so important?

How did Jesus view this command? Matthew 22v37-39

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This was not just Jesus' teaching, it was an agreed fact in the Judaism of the day. This was the most important commandment. The Jews believed that if you did not love God you would be incapable of keeping the rest of the commands. Obedience has to be motivated and empowered by love. **Do you agree?**

What else could obedience be motivated by? What happens when obedience is not motivated by love?

It seems that this verse is saying that loving God has to be the central action of our lives. That everything we do has to come out of love for God. Loving God orders our lives.

How would this work out practically?

What things need to be arranged around the love of God in our lives?

2

"Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbour as yourself. I am the LORD. Leviticus 19v18

Who is my neighbour? Luke 10v29

What does it mean to love your neighbour as yourself?

Why should we not bear a grudge?

The context of this passage is not bearing a grudge. This suggests that our neighbour may have done something to offend us. We are not being asked to love someone who we like.

Jesus said that this was the second greatest command. (Mat 22v37-39)

Do the two go together?

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Read Matthew 5v43-46

Why isn't it enough to love those who love you?

What was Jesus take on this?

What happens when you love your enemy?

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. Luke 6v35

Read Romans 13v9-10

Why is loving your neighbour fulfilling the law?

How are you going to love your neighbour?

3

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures for ever.

We are to love God. We are to love our neighbor. But God also loves us.

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Turn, O LORD, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love. Psalm 6v4

But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. Psalm 13v5

The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love. Psalm 33v5

Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. Psalm 36v5

Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD; may your love and your truth always protect me. Psalm 40v11

By day the LORD directs his love, at night his song is with me--a prayer to the God of my life. Psalm 42v8

The word used in most of these verses is the word hesed (different from the previous two verse). It is translated in lots of ways . Grace, faithfulness, mercy or love, sometimes steadfast love. It is a covenant word. It does not describe an emotion but the way God acts towards those He is in covenant with.

What is the result of God's hesed in our lives?

4

Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred. Proverbs 15v17

What do you think this verse is saying?

Which would you rather have a little with love or a lot without it? Why?

What happens when there is no love in our lives?

What does love bring into our lives?

5

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13v34-35

In what way is this a new commandment?

What is the effect of loving one another?

How do we show this love?

The Greek for new implies freshness.

Why do you think that this was so important to Jesus?