

# HOW TO LOVE MORE DEEPLY

Love is the most important root for the Christian. It is the base of all of our motives. Jesus said the two greatest commandments were to :

## 1. LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, MIND, SOUL, AND BODY

This is where we dive into things that keep us from loving God or that we place as higher than God. This could be sins that we constantly choose over him, and how our love for God will produce a different heart against those things. This could also be things that seem good such as careers, money, family, relationships, possessions, hobbies, etc. Those are all good things, but should never have more love for things that came from God over God himself

## 2. LOVE OTHERS AS MUCH AS YOU LOVE YOURSELF

This may be the most difficult, in a time where it seems completely normal to have an entire page dedicated to ourselves, how do we possibly love others just as much? This may take time, but it is constantly putting ourselves in the shoes of others, and considering their needs above our own.

Jesus said that everything we do as Christians hinges from these two commandments. Nothing else matters. Jesus said that anything we do as a Christian that does not point to loving God or loving our neighbors, then we are missing the point. We are wasting our time.

Jesus lived both of these out in every single action he made. We love this way because that is how Jesus first loved us. True love in community looks like how the body of Christ is described in 1 Corinthians 12. That when one part of the body suffers, we suffer with it. When someone is hurting or going through a hard time, we don't look down on them with pity, or ignore what they are going through, or think that it is something they deserved and feel pleased with the difficult time they are facing.

**Vs 1.** If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

**Vs. 2** If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.

**Vs. 3-7** If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.

Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

Love doesn't strut,

Doesn't have a swelled head,

Doesn't force itself on others,

Isn't always "me first,"

Doesn't fly off the handle,

Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,

Doesn't revel when others grovel,

Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,

Puts up with anything,

Trusts God always,

Always looks for the best,

Never looks back,

But keeps going to the end.

**Vs. 8-10** Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.

**Vs. 11** When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good.

**Vs. 12** We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

**Vs. 13** But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love."

## **1 CORINTHIANS 13**