

Why Love Others?

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Mathew 28:18-20 — And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[b] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Mathew 22:36-39 — Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? ³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it; you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

I. God is the source of all love.

Romans 5:8 — but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 4:7-12 — Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

“The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people.” - G.K. Chesterton

II. Love people right where they are, and as they are.

1 John 4:18-19 — There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

John 8:10-11 — Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹ She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”

III. Speak the truth in love.

Ephesians 4:15 — Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

1 Corinthians 13

1 Corinthians 1:5-7 (NLT) — The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith. ⁶ But some people have missed this whole point. They have turned away from these things and spend their time in meaningless discussions. ⁷ They want to be known as teachers of the Law of Moses, but they don’t know what they are talking about, even though they speak so confidently.

IV. Love requires sacrifice.

John 15:13-14 — A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ¹⁴ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.” — C. S. Lewis (The Four Loves)
