



Abounding in Love

PHILIPPIANS 1:9

The Love of God Teaches Us the Meaning of Love

▶ 1 John 4:9-10

- ▶ “In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”
- ▶ Love is seen in the actions it prompts
- ▶ No complacency
- ▶ This love not drawn out by excellency in the object
- ▶ Exercise of the divine will
- ▶ Deliberate choice
- ▶ Agape love

This Love Commanded of Christians

▶ Matthew 22:36-40

- ▶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”
- ▶ Not an impulse from the feelings
- ▶ Does not always follow the natural inclination

▶ Matthew 5:44-46

- ▶ “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? “
- ▶ Not based on reciprocation or excellency in the object
- ▶ Deliberate choice of the will
- ▶ Agape love

Agape Love

- ▶ Not:
 - ▶ An emotion
 - ▶ A feeling
 - ▶ Just a disposition
- ▶ Love is a decision with an act of the will
- ▶ Love is known by the actions it prompts
- ▶ IN this lesson, not talking about these loves:
 - ▶ Phileo – bond of friendship and brotherly love
 - ▶ Storge – natural affection
 - ▶ Eros – romantic or sexual love

The necessity of love – 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

- ▶ “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.”
- ▶ Without love
 - ▶ Noise
 - ▶ Am nothing
 - ▶ Profit nothing

Some of Love's qualities – 1 Corinthians 13

- ▶ Love “suffers long”
 - ▶ “to be patient in bearing the offenses and injuries of others; to be mild and slow in avenging; slow to anger; slow to punish” (Thayer, p.387)
 - ▶ Long-tempered; opposite of short-tempered or quick-tempered
 - ▶ Able to suffer mistreatment and injustice, not returning in kind
 - ▶ Luke 23:34

Some of Love's qualities – 1 Corinthians 13

- ▶ Love “is kind”
 - ▶ “to show one’s self mild; to be kind, use kindness (Thayer, p.671)
 - ▶ Mellow, not caustic and sharp
 - ▶ Not just kind words but kind deeds
 - ▶ Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12-13

Some of Love's qualities – 1 Corinthians 13

- ▶ Love “does not envy”
 - ▶ Envy – displeasure experienced over what another has that you don't have, to the point that you wish the other did not have it
 - ▶ Rottenness to the bones
 - ▶ Proverbs 14:30
 - ▶ Envy's fruits
 - ▶ 1 John 3:12
 - ▶ Luke 15:25-28
 - ▶ Matthew 27:18
- ▶ Instead:
 - ▶ Romans 12:15

Some of Love's qualities – 1 Corinthians 13

- ▶ Love “does not parade itself”; “is not puffed up”
 - ▶ “to inflate, blow up, blow out, to cause to swell up; to puff up, to make proud; to be puffed up, to bear one's self loftily, be proud” (Thayer, p.660)
 - ▶ Proverbs 26:12
 - ▶ Philippians 2:1-8
 - ▶ Love is humble
 - ▶ Matthew 5:3
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 12:21-22

Some of Love's qualities – 1 Corinthians 13

- ▶ Love “does not behave rudely”
 - ▶ “unseemly” (KJV); “unbecomingly” (NASB)
 - ▶ Literally, does not behave indecently
 - ▶ Instead,
 - ▶ Concerned with proper decorum
 - ▶ Concerned with how it affects others
 - ▶ Behaves in a considerate and respectful way
- ▶ Ephesians 4:29

Some of Love's qualities – 1 Corinthians 13

- ▶ Love “does not seek its own”
 - ▶ Does not insist upon its own rights
 - ▶ Does not stress personal rights, self-centeredness, self-indulgence
 - ▶ Love is unselfish
 - ▶ “But what about my feelings?”
 - ▶ Surrender in matters of liberty
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 8:11-13; 10:24
 - ▶ “It would be the key to almost all the problems which surround us today, if men would think less of their rights and more of their duties” (William Barclay)
 - ▶ Philippians 2:1-4

Some of Love's qualities – 1 Corinthians 13

- ▶ Love “is not provoked”
 - ▶ Not roused or provoked to anger, sudden outburst
 - ▶ Not readily upset or irritated
 - ▶ Not bitter or resentful; no chip on the shoulder
 - ▶ James 1:19-20

Some of Love's qualities – 1 Corinthians 13

- ▶ Love “thinks no evil”
 - ▶ Does not keep account of evil
 - ▶ Holds no grudges
 - ▶ Instead, forgiveness
 - ▶ Matthew 18:21-22

Some of Love's qualities – 1 Corinthians 13

- ▶ Love “does not rejoice in iniquity”
 - ▶ No pleasure in sin, lawlessness
 - ▶ No joy in witnessing another fall into sin or be injured by sin
 - ▶ Psalm 119:136

Some of Love's qualities – 1 Corinthians 13

- ▶ Love “rejoices in the truth”
 - ▶ Rejoices to hear it, learn it, believe it, obey it
 - ▶ Rejoices to share it and see it learned and practiced in others
 - ▶ 1 Thessalonians 2:13
 - ▶ 3 John 4

Some of Love's qualities – 1 Corinthians 13

- ▶ Love “bears all things”
 - ▶ Bears injustices and trials
 - ▶ James 1:2-4
 - ▶ Galatians 6:2

Some of Love's qualities – 1 Corinthians 13

- ▶ Love “believes all things”
 - ▶ Believes the best about others unless proven otherwise
 - ▶ Takes the kindest and best view of others and their circumstances
 - ▶ Opposite of evil surmising, marking the worst of things, painting things in the darkest colors
 - ▶ 1 Timothy 6:4
 - ▶ Philippians 2:14-15

Some of Love's qualities – 1 Corinthians 13

- ▶ Love “hopes all things”
 - ▶ Is not pessimistic nor doubting
 - ▶ Is optimistic and looks for improvement
 - ▶ Is cheerful and forward looking
 - ▶ Philippians 1:12; 3:12-14

Some of Love's qualities – 1 Corinthians 13

- ▶ Love “endures all things”
 - ▶ Perseveres through injustice, hardship, sufferings, persecution
 - ▶ Hebrews 12:1-4

Some of Love's qualities – 1 Corinthians 13

- ▶ Love “never fails”
 - ▶ Permanence of love
 - ▶ In the context of 1 Corinthians 13: there would be a day when miraculous spiritual gifts would fail, cease, vanish away