

LOVE WILL KEEP US TOGETHER

(John 15:9)

Introduction:

1. This wonderful verse defines what it means to “walk in the light”. To walk in the light = to love. Love God, love self, and love others.
2. The fact that Jesus said our love would be the defining/identifying attribute of His people (John 13:35) makes our understanding of love paramount.
3. Let us comprehensively define godly love and consider its application.

Discussion:

I. Love Defined (1 Cor. 13).

- A. Love suffers long (is patient) = *makrothumeo* = big passion = long in spirit, bearing (cp. Matt. 18:26; Luke 18:7-Rev. 6:10-2 Pet. 3:15; Heb. 6:15).
- B. Love is kind = *chresteuomai* = useful, benevolent (only occurrence in NT; cp. 2 Tim. 2:14; Rom. 1:26, 27; 1 Pet. 2:3; Eph. 2:7; pictured so well in Luke 10:33ff = good Samaritan).
- C. Love does not envy = *zeloo* = overly heated (cp. Acts 7:9; 17:5; 1 Cor. 12:31; Jas. 4:2).
- D. Love does not parade itself = *perpereuomai* = to boast one’s self, a self-display (only occurrence in NT; pictured well in Luke 20:46, 47).
- E. Love is not puffed up = *phusioo* = to inflate, to blow up (6 of the 7 appearances of this word are in 1 Cor. [4:6, 18, 19; 5:2; 8:1; 13:4]! cp. Col. 2:18).
- F. Love does not behave rudely (it is kind!) = *aschemoneo* = to act unbecomingly; from a root meaning shapeless, inelegant (cp. 1 Cor. 7:36; Rom. 1:27; Rev. 16:15; 1 Cor. 12:23).
- G. Love does not seek its own = *zeteo* = but rather seeks the things of God (Matt. 6:33) and the good of others (1 Cor. 10:24); just like our Lord (Rom. 15:2, 3).
- H. Love is not provoked = *paroxuno* = to sharpen alongside, to exasperate (cp. Acts 17:16; pictured so well in Jesus before Caiaphas, Herod, and Pilot).
- I. Love thinks no evil = *logizomai* = to reckon, count, compute, calculate, count over, to take an inventory, to estimate (cp. 1 Cor. 4:1-Consider; 1 Cor. 13:11-Reason; Gal. 3:6-credited; Phil. 4:8-think about).
- J. Love does not rejoice in iniquity but in truth = *adikia* = injustice, moral wrongfulness. To take what is good, proper, straight and make wicked, unseemly, and crooked (cp. 2 Pet. 3:16).
- K. Love bears all things = *stego* = to roof over, to cover with silence-figuratively; (cp. 1 Cor. 9:12; 1 Thess. 3:1, 5).
- L. Love believes all things = *pistueo* = have faith in, trust, credit (cp. Logizomai Gal. 3:6).
- M. Love hopes all things = *elpizo* = expect, have confidence in (cp. Luke 6:34; John 5:45; Rom. 8:24, 25).
- N. Love endures all things = *hupomeno* = to remain under extreme pressure = pictured so well in John 13:1 and Rev. 2:10.
- O. Love never fails = *ekpipto* (TR) = to drop away, to become inefficient (cp. Rom. 9:6); *pipto* (WH) = to fall, fail, perish (Matt. 7:25).

II. Love Applied.

- A. Matt. 7:12 = Love as the why, the what, and the how.
- B. 1 John 4:19-21 = Love received, returned, and relayed.
- C. In a very real sense, love is the “light” we are to walk/remain in (John 15:9; 1 John 1:7).

Conclusion:

1. Love, for the Christian, is not a casual matter. Nor is it an optional matter. It is an absolute requirement, and its standard is Christ-high.
2. If we would be saved we need to dedicate ourselves to understanding and devote ourselves to expressing.
3. Invitation.

MORE ON “LOVE WILL KEEP US TOGETHER”

1. Note and remember always, that love as defined by God is not an emotion or a feeling. It is not shared goals or appetites. Love is a continual striving action. That is why love can never fail. We seek the best for others always, even when we are disciplining some, and even when we are dis-fellowshipping others (2 Thess. 3:14, 15).
2. Love begun = God created us in His image (Gen. 1:26, 27), but had already made preparations for our salvation (Matt. 25:34; Eph. 1:4; 1 Pet. 1:20; Rev. 13:8). He provided for us the perfect environment for us to live within (Gen. 2:8, 9). He made provision for us all along the way after our fall (Gen. 3:15; 12:3; Gal. 4:4; Heb. 6:19, 20). God causes the sun to shine on the just and the unjust, the rain to fall on the same (Matt. 5:45). And the ultimate expression is the cross of Calvary (Rom. 5:1-11).
3. Love returned = when man acknowledges God and seeks Him (Heb. 11:6), when man learns from God and submits to Him (Matt. 11:28-30), and when man dies in Christ, in victory (1 Cor. 15:51-58)!
4. Along the way, man shows his love for God in his love for his fellow man, the other children of God.
Matt. 22:36-40 = Deut. 6:5; Lev. 19:18 = 1 John 4:19-21

Our love is especially for the saints (Gal. 6:10; Rom. 12:9ff), but is to be exhibited for/to all (Rom. 15:1-6; 1 Cor. 10:24; Phil. 2:4; 1 Titus 3:2; Matt. 5:13-16), just like our Lord (John 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:6; 1 John 2:2).
5. That is why John, the apostle of love, said that if we could only do that, it would be enough!

PRAYER LIST FOR WEEK STARTING OCT. 8TH

Those with long term issues

Louise Williams, Cliff and Rachel Greenawalt and their family, Ruth Vaughn as she lives with diabetes, and Harrison Waldron.

Those with short term issues

- ▶ Darrell McKee as he continues his recovery from surgery.
- ▶ Frances Davis as she struggles with some health issues.
- ▶ That John Pellin might find a place to live closer to the building.
- ▶ Our members who are struggling with sickness/colds/injuries.
- ▶ Our members who are traveling (Lauryn Corbelli studying in Europe).
- ▶ Our college students who are away from us in body, but not in spirit.
- ▶ Our leadership in the church; that they might be faithful, strong, and bold.