

## #8 “LOVE”

2 Peter 1:1-11

### 1. Not optional.

**John 13:34, 35 (NIV)** A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.

**1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NIV)** If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

**1 John 4:7, 8 (NIV)** Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

### 2. Supernatural.

**Galatians 5:16 (NIV)** So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

**Galatians 5:22 (NIV)** But the fruit of the Spirit is love ...

### 3. Personal.

**Romans 8:38, 39 (NIV)** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Ephesians 3:17-19 (NIV)** ... And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

### 4. Practical.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV)** Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

The God-kind of love is demonstrated in the way we treat:

- The needy.
- The advantaged.
- The same.
- The adversarial.

**Matthew 25:35, 36 (NIV)** For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me.

**Philippians 2:22 (NIV)** But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.

**James 3:14-16 (NIV)** But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

**Luke 6:27, 28; 32, 33 (NIV)** But I tell you who hear Me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you ... If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ do that.

### 5. Powerful.

**1 Corinthians 13:8a (NIV)** Love never fails ...

The powerful love of God never fails to:

- Cleanse.

**1 Peter 4:8 (NIV)** Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

- Heal.

**Proverbs 16:24 (NIV)** Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

- Deliver.

**1 John 4:18 (NIV)** There is no fear in love ...

- Empower.

**Matthew 3:17 (NIV)** And a voice from heaven said, “This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.”