



The Love for Others

1 John 4:20

Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

Introduction:

The world that we are living today is a world painted by a mosaic colour of hatred, doubt, fear, anger, despair, so on or and so forth.

It is easy to say we love God when that love doesn't cost us anything more than weekly attendance at religious services. **But the real test** of our love for God is how we treat the people right in front of us—our family members and fellow believers. We cannot truly love God while neglecting to love those who are created in his image.

When we become Christians, we become part of God's family, with fellow believers as our brothers and sisters. It is God who determines who the other family members are, not us. **We are simply called to accept** and love them. How well do you treat your fellow family members?

Observation:

The confidence we have in knowing that God loves us delivers us **from fear** but not **from responsible action**. In fact, God's love for us and in us sets us free to love our brother and sister even as God loves them. To fail this test of love proves that one's claim to love God is a **lie**.

1. God loves us delivers us from fear but not from responsible action
2. Love for God must express itself in love for fellow believers
3. The one who loves God must also love his brother
4. The "perfect love casts out fear (sweeps away hatred)

5. There is no fear of judgment for the believer who abides in God (v. 16) and loves other believers

1 John 3: 18 - Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions

1 John 2: 4 - If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him.

- To know God is to obey His commandment
- To know His commandment is to love God
- To love God is to love fellow man (one another)

A liar does not speak the truth in that what he claims is false, and his actions show that he has divorced himself from the reality of God.

If one fails the test of loving a visible brother, such a one makes it certain that he or she does not love the invisible God; this proves that such a person has no true love at all.

Six liars in 1John--those who say:

2. They have fellowship with God and still walk in darkness (1Jn. 1:6).
3. They have no sin (1Jn. 1:8)
4. They have not sinned (1Jn. 1:10).
5. They are Christians and do not keep the New Testament commandments (1Jn. 2:4).
6. There is no God or Jesus Christ (1Jn. 2:22).
7. They are Christians and still hate men (1Jn. 4:20).

Conclusion:

The ground for all of this love-based behaviour and rejoicing is grace: "We love because he first loved us" (v. 19). Our obedience is not a fearful striving to please God but a thankful and joyous response to the love with which he has already

embraced us and provided for us by the sacrifice of his Son. The gospel is indeed news of great comfort and joy!

1 Corinthians 13: 1-8

Love Is the Greatest

1. **If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels** but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. (**Divine Knowledge**)
2. If I had the **gift of prophecy**, and if **I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge**, and if I had such faith that **I could move mountains**, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. (**Divine Ability**)
3. **If I gave everything** I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing. (**Divine Capability**)
4. Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful (**Divine Patient**)
5. or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. (**Divine Capability**)
6. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. (**Divine Joy**)
7. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. (**Divine Endurance**)
8. Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! (**Divine Love**)