

The Christian Life is Love

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† Eternal Walk
≡ MINISTRY

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“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:30-31) There is no command greater than these because love is the foundation of the Christian life.

The love that comes from God is Agape love, and it is the highest form of love. Agape love refers to a pure, willful, sacrificial love that intentionally desires another’s highest good. Agape love motivates Christians to bring the good news of Christ to people. *But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.* (Matthew 5:44) Jesus tells us to love our enemies, which reveals the power of Agape love. God loves everyone but hates sin, and since we have the mind and heart of Christ we also love everyone and hate sin. Agape love is unique in that it doesn’t

always include brotherly love, as the case of loving our enemy.

Created for Heart of Love

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)

We are created to have our hearts filled with God's love because we are created in the image of God and God is love. We can have our minds filled with knowledge of God's love, but it's not the same as having our hearts filled with God's love. A heart filled with God's love changes our life and motivates us to minister to the world

If we want live the way God designed us to live, then we must live with a heart of love. "The law of love is an expression of God's character and the template on which life is built."¹ If we live the way we are designed, then we can live life to the full. If we live according to the way of the sinful world, we will suffer and never have life to the full, and we will eventually crash in sin.

“Choosing to operate in harmony with God’s design for life results in better mental and physical health.”² Anything in life always works the best when operated in accordance to the design. The following is a quote revealing the affect love has on our mental health. “The greatest improvements occurred when participants meditated specifically on a God of love. Such meditation was associated with growth in the prefrontal cortex (the part of the brain right behind our forehead where we reason, make judgments and experience Godlike love) and subsequent increased capacity for empathy, sympathy, compassion, and altruism. But here’s the most astonishing part. Not only does other-centered love increase when we worship a God of love, but sharp thinking and memory improve as well. In other words, worshipping a God of love actually stimulates the brain to heal and grow. The law of love is the law of life.”³

We were designed to operate according to God’s Word and not according to Satan’s

fleshly desires. *For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.* (Galatians 5:17) The Lord gives us the power to overcome Satan's tempting our emotionally driven fleshly desires. But we learn to capture every thought and emotion, and take it to the Lord. *We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.* (2 Corinthians 10:5) Immediately go to Christ for victory because if we wait Satan wins.

Heart of Love

The Christian life consists of letting God mold us to the mind and heart of Jesus. *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.* (Romans 8:29) When we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior, we

are predestined to conform to the image of Jesus. The key to becoming like Jesus is to have God fill our hearts with his love, because God is love

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:7-8) We know God when our hearts are filled with His love, because love defines His heart. The process of filling our hearts with God's love comes only from serving the Lord guided by the Spirit.

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5) The Lord remains in us as He guides us through the Holy Spirit. *Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. (Galatians 5:25)* We live by the Spirit when we depend on the Lord, and we seek his guidance in everything we do. *Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened*

to you. (Matthew 7:7) We ask for the Lord's guidance as we minister to the world, reflecting the Lord's love. If we desire to walk in the Spirit, if we depend on the Lord's divine guidance, then we will ask.

The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' (Matthew 25:40) We show our love to the Lord by reflecting His love to people, and love gives us a strong desire to help people and tell them about Christ. The more we minister to the world, the more love God pours into our hearts, the more Christ-like we become, and the more we know the Lord.

Love is Our Foundation

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in

advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:8-10)
These verses are telling us that we are not saved by works, yet we are created to do good works. We are not saved by works, but we are saved by faith which means we serve the Lord doing good works motivated by a heart of love just as Jesus was motivated by love for the Father and love for us. *If you love me, keep my commands.* (John 14:15)
The Lord is pleased with those who are motivated by a heart filled with God's Agape love. We minister to the world with the heart of Jesus.

With our hearts filled with love the commandments of the Lord are natural to us, just as they were natural to Jesus. Jesus followed the Father's will, because his heart was filled with perfect love and his will was the Father's will. *Jesus gave them this answer, Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.* (John 5:19)
Jesus did what the Father showed Him

because perfect love made the Father and the Son as one. When our hearts are filled with love we become one with Christ and we do what Christ shows us through the Spirit.

Love Motivates

Love motivates us to ask the Lord to open doors for ministry. We seek to bring Christ to people every day because that has become the priority in our life. *In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.* (Matthew 5:17) We are a Light in this world and we are motivated by God's love in our hearts. The only thing that will truly motivate us to serve the Lord is God's unconditional, sacrificial love in our hearts.

We pray for lost souls and we seek the Lord's guidance to minister to those who don't know Christ. Love brings us closer to the Lord and we become more like Jesus, and our life is centered on serving the Lord by bringing the good news of Christ to the

world, just as Jesus served the Father and brought salvation to the world. *And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.* (Mark 16:15) This is a command from Jesus to his apostles and to us, and how can we effectively proclaim the Gospel to the world without being motivated by a heart of love that depends on Christ? How can we have faith that is pleasing to the Lord without depending on Him?

Love Increases Our Faith

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (Corinthians 13:13) The more love we have in our hearts the more we know the Lord, and the more faith we have. *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.* (Hebrews 11:6) The only way to trust the Lord without doubt is to truly know Him; and we know Him by

living as His servant and letting Christ be our Master.

Our faith is continually increasing as the love in our hearts increase, because we know the Lord and we seek to know him more. *You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.* (Jeremiah 29:13) We seek the Lord with all our heart because there is nothing in this worldly life that is more important and fulfilling as Christ. Prayer, reading the Word, and fellowship; has become most desirable to us. There is nothing in this world that is more interesting or fulfilling as Christ, and knowing Christ is a life-long journey of love.

Love Points Us to Eternity

Hearts filled with God's love drives us to be closer to the Lord, and our greatest desire is to be in the presence of the Father and the Son. This will be by far the greatest, most fulfilling moment ever in our life, because the absolute ultimate is being with the

Father and Son. *Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*(John 17:3) In this life getting closer to the Lord is our greatest desire except to be with the Father and the Son in Heaven.

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart. (Ecclesiastes 3:11) Our hearts are filled with the desire for eternity, when our hearts are filled with God's love. Love motivates us to be closer to the Lord in this life and motivates us towards eternity. *Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.* (Psalm 34:8) The Lord is good beyond our imagination and his blessings from Heaven are far better than anything from the world.

Love Overcomes Fear

“Fear impairs our judgment, paralyzes our reason and leads us down a path of selfishness.”⁴ “When fear increases, love, growth, development, and healthy thinking

decrease. When love increases, not only does fear decrease, but growth, development and healthy thinking all improve. Fear and love are inversely proportional.”⁵

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. (1 John 4:18) The Lord fills our hearts with love which drives out fear from Satan. How can we serve the Lord if our hearts are fearful? God’s love and Satan’s fear cannot coexist in our hearts. If we trust the Lord and serve him, love will drive out fear, but if we are complacent in serving the Lord, then fear increases and love decreases. The love in our hearts increases when we serve the Lord, personally ministering to people, just as Jesus did.

Life to the Full

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10) With our

hearts filled with God's love we are free of self and our focus is own God and others. Satan wants us to be selfish with our thoughts always on self, which can destroy us. Jesus' thoughts were doing the Fathers will and serving mankind, and we are to live like Jesus with our focus on fulfilling the Lord's will and serving others. "Just as the Bible teaches, to give is to live. This is how God designed life to function."⁶ When we live our life according the Word of God, as demonstrated by the life of Jesus, we are living the way were created to live. *Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.* (1 John 2:6) With our hearts filled with love and our minds filled with the Word, our life will model the life of Jesus.

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 5:1) True freedom only comes from Christ; it never comes from the world. No matter what happens in this sinful world we live with victory in Christ and

Heaven is our home. *The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?* (Psalm 118:6) We live for eternity and we have victory over death, knowing physical death is the door to Heaven.

We live life to the full ministering to the world, we are no longer in bondage to the world or to Satan's temptations, we have overcome death and Heaven is our home. We live in victory and we life to the full. We are not part of this world but we enjoy life as God intended, life to the full with a heart of love.

- 1 (*The God Shaped Brain* by Dr. Timothy R. Jennings, page 28)
- 2 Ibid 29
- 3 Ibid 27
- 4 Ibid 46
- 5 Ibid 48
- 6 Ibid 30



Eternal Walk **MINISTRY**

**Bringing God's love and truth to
help people on their eternal walk
to heaven**

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