

## The Greatest Gift is Love: The Test of Love

If we don't love God with all of our heart soul mind and strength, and one another, chances are we are not saved. Once we give our life to Jesus, the love of God is poured into our heart by the Holy Spirit. This will transform our heart and life into the image of Christ. Agape love brings us into obedience to God's Word because we love His Word. If we love Him, we will keep His commandments. **"Keep My commandments"** means to love God, love one another, and love righteousness. God's love covers us, and we cover one another...and don't let go.

**Commandment:** Strong's # 1785, *entole* (en-tol-ay); authoritative prescription, precept (teaching-instruction).

"Doctor's orders!" Jesus being our Great Physician giving us a prescription for Agape and instructions on how to "take it" in order to save **someone else's life** and in the process, Jesus save our life! Are you willing to "take a bullet?"

**John 15:12-14** *This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends \*if you do whatever I command you.*

**John 14:15** *"If you love Me, keep My commandments."* Obedience through humility, is the manifestation of love.

**John 15:9-10** *"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love."*

**John 14:23-24** *Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. 24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words"*

**John 14:21** *He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."*

**1 John 2:3-5** *Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.*

**1 John 3:10** *In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.*

**"Practicing righteousness"** walking out the right moral choices. We can be morally sound (practicing righteousness) but not love our brother which is an indicator we don't love God. There are believers who only focus on their morality, believing they are right with God, but don't love their brother. They are deceived, and often separate from the church.

**1 John 4:20-21** *If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? 21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also. Hate causes separation through unforgiveness.*

**1 John 3:17** *But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? Every time you tithe and offer at Life Song, it blesses people all around the world!*

**John 21:15** *So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."*

The best understanding of "Feed My lambs (and sheep)" is to serve one another, especially through the church.

**1 John 2:15-17** *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. Most Christians are more concerned with the things of this world, than the things of God.*

**Love God:** #1 daily appointed time for prayer and Bible reading. #2 Expressive corporate worship; Psalms 150 chpts.

**Love One Another:** live by this motto, "I've got you covered!" Jesus created His Church to express and grow our love through relationships helping one another. In humility we serve one another, giving our time, talent and treasure.

**Love Righteousness:** Our love for God is greater than our love for sin, allowing His grace to defeat sin in our lives.