

Lead By Love

June 21st, 2026

Focus Scripture: **1 John 4:20-21;5:1 NKJV**

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? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also. Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.

Introduction: Relationships are breaking down

- Matthew 24:12 NKJV - *And because lawlessness will abound, the love [agapē: affection or benevolence; charity] of many will grow cold.*
- 2 Timothy 3:1-4 MKJV - *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves [philautos: fond of or friendly with yours own self].*
- Violence and broken families are on the rise; news cycles littered with violent crime events
- Broken marriages: 2025 divorce rate = 41% for 1st marriages (goes up for subsequent marriages)
 - Cohabitation plays a role; approximately 70% of couples live together before marriage (divorce rate is higher)
- National Fatherhood Initiative – 2025 US Census Bureau = 18.2 million children (1 in 4) w/o biological, step, or adoptive father in the home. This has numerous negative consequences .
- There is a deficit of love in action!
- If we are to make a difference not only in our families but in the world, Christians must lead by love.

Point no. 1: Am I being a liar?

- 1 John 4:20a - *If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar.*
- What do my actions say about my testimony/my faith?
- 1 John 4:8 NKJV - *He who does not love [agapaō: to show affection or benevolence (agapē) in a social or moral sense; compares to phileo] does not know God, for God is love [agapē].*
- Ephesians 4:17-19 NKJV - *This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*
- Ephesians 5:3-4 NKJV - *But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.*
 - Do I look like the world or a new creation?
- James 3:8-10 NKJV - *But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.*

- Ephesians 4:29 NKJV - *Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*
 - Am I building up or tearing down with my tongue? Am I speaking life?
- James 2:15-17 NKJV - *If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*
 - Am I treating others as I should be?
- Luke 6:31 NKJV - *And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.*

Point No. 2: Am I loving who I see

- 1 John 4:20b - *For he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?*
- What are some practical ways I can or should show love to others?
- To people in general . . .
 - Romans 12:10-18 NKJV - *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love [philadelphia], in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.*
 - Romans 14:14-15 NKJV - *I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.*
 - Don't put a stumbling block in another person's spiritual journey of faith. Don't cause someone else to sin.
 - Philippians 2:3-4 NKJV - *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*
 - Matthew 5:43-45 NKJV - *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love [agapao] your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*
- To fellow believers/the local church . . .
 - Galatians 6:10 NKJV - *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.*
 - Serve!
 - Ephesians 4:16 NIV - *From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

- I Corinthians 12:12, 14, 20-21 NKJV - *For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For in fact the body is not one member but many. But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."*
- Romans 12:4-8 NKJV - *For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*
 - Just like a body, we are knit together to work together.
- To my family . . .
 - Quote credited to Pope John Paul II: "As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world."
 - Colossians 3:18-21 NKJV - *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love [agapao] your wives and do not be bitter toward them. Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*
 - Ephesians 5:22-25 NKJV - *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love [agapaō] your wives, just as Christ also loved (agapaō) the church and gave Himself for her.*
 - Ephesians 6:1-4 NKJV - *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*
 - How are you loving/honoring your spouse/children/family?
 - 2 Samuel 12:7 – "You are the man!"

Point No. 3: What does the commandment to love my brother look like?

- 1 John 4:21 NKJV - *And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.*
- Matthew 22:36-40 NKJV - *"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love (agapaō) the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love [agapaō] your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.*
 - Jesus equates loving God with loving people.
- John 15:12-13 NKJV - *This is My commandment, that you love [agapaō] one another as I have loved you. Greater love [agapē] has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.*

- Ephesians 5:1-2 NKJV - *Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love [agapē], as Christ also has loved [agapaō] us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.*
 - Consider the parable of the Good Samaritan – Luke 10:30-37

Conclusion: Am I born of God?

- 1 John 5:1 NKJV - *Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.*
- 1 John 4:7-11,15 NKJV - *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation [atonement] for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.*
- Romans 10:9-10, 13 NKJV - *If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*
- If you believe that Jesus is the Anointed One Who Saves, that He died to pay for your sins, then you are born of God and it will show up in your love for others.
- If you have not yet given your life to Jesus Christ, today is the day! Don't let another moment go by without believing that He died for your sins and rose from grave. Secure your eternity right now!