

“Loving One Another”

I. Defining Biblical Love

→ Hebrew—**ahav** - to “love”—to have a **strong emotional attachment** to, and **desire**, either to **possess** or to be in the **presence** of **something or someone**. (Vine)

chesed— **loving-kindness**, “**steadfast love**; **grace**; **mercy**; **faithfulness**; **goodness**; **devotion**—“When **man** is the subject of **chesed**, the word usually describes a person’s **kindness** or **loyalty** to another.” (Vine)

→ Greek—**agape**—“ a pure, willful, **sacrificial love** that intentionally desires **another’s highest good**” (Alyssa Roat) **Agape love** involves **faithfulness**, **commitment**, and an **act** of the **will** (**doing**)

phileo—defined as an **affectionate love**, a fondness, the **love** of friends—**brotherly love**

eros—a desire to **possess** and **enjoy** an object of **desire** (**sexual love**)

II. The *Principal* of Love

A. **Love**→ the *essence* of the Mosaic Law

You shall **not hate** your fellow countryman in your **heart**;...
You shall **not** take **vengeance**, nor bear any **grudge** against the sons of your **people**,
but you shall **love your neighbor as yourself**; I am **the LORD**.
(Leviticus 19:17-18)

Owe nothing to anyone except to **love one another**;
for he who **loves his neighbor** has fulfilled **the law**.

For this, “YOU SHALL **NOT COMMIT ADULTERY**, YOU SHALL **NOT MURDER**,
YOU SHALL **NOT STEAL**, YOU SHALL **NOT COVET**,”
and if there is any other **commandment**,
it is **summed up** in this saying,
“YOU SHALL **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF**.”

Love does **no wrong** to a **neighbor**;
therefore **love** is the **fulfillment of the law**. (Romans 13:8-10)

B. **Love**→ the *essence* of New Covenant Law

“A **new commandment** I give to you, that you **love one another**, even **as I have loved you**, that you also **love one another**.

By this **all men** will **know** that you are **My disciples**, if you have **love for one another**.” (John 13:34-35)

Now as to the **love of the brethren**, you have **no need** for *anyone* to write to you, for you yourselves are ***taught by God*** to **love one another**; (I Thessalonians 4:9)

III. The ***Priority*** of **Love**

But the **goal** of our **instruction** is **love** from a **pure heart** and a **good conscience** and a **sincere faith**.
(I Timothy 1:5)

But now **faith, hope, love**, abide these three;
But the ***greatest*** of these is **love**.
(I Corinthians 13:13)

IV. The ***Practice*** of **Love**

Love is **patient**, ***love*** is **kind** and is **not jealous**;
love does **not brag** and is **not arrogant**, does not act **unbecomingly**;
it does not **seek its own**, is **not provoked**,

does not take into **account a wrong suffered**,
does **not rejoice** in **unrighteousness**, but **rejoices** with the **truth**;
bears all things, **believes** all things, **hopes** all things,
endures all things. ***Love never fails***;
(I Corinthians 13:4-8a)

A. ***Love*** is **patient** → “makrothumeo”- **longsuffering, forbearance**

...put on a **heart** of ...**kindness, humility, gentleness** and **patience**; (Colossians 3:12)

Therefore I (Paul), the **prisoner of the Lord**, implore you to **walk** in a manner **worthy** of the **calling** with which you have been **called**,... with **patience**, showing **tolerance** for **one another in love**, (Ephesians 4:1-2)

B. ***Love*** is **kind** → “chresteuomai” – **useful, beneficial, good, gracious**

Be kind to **one another**, **tender-hearted, forgiving** each other,
just as **God in Messiah** also has **forgiven you**. (Ephesians 4:32)

C. ***Love*** is **not jealous** → “zeloo” – **not moved** with **envy**, or **feelings of displeasure** over the **advantage** or **prosperity** of **others**

Be devoted to one another in **brotherly love**;
give preference to one another in honor; (Romans 12:10)

A **sound heart** is **life** to the **body**,
But **envy** is **rotteness** to the **bones**. (Proverbs 14:30)

D. **Love** does **not brag** → “perpereuomei” – **boast** or **vaunt** one’s self
Love is **not arrogant** → “phusioo” – “inflated” with **pride**

For I say, through the **grace** given to me, to everyone who is among you,
not to think of **himself more highly** than he **ought to think**,
but to think **soberly**, as **God** has dealt to **each one** a **measure of faith**.
(Romans 12:3)

Do you see a man **wise** in ***his own eyes***?
There is **more hope** for a **fool** than for **him**. (Proverbs 26:12)

E. **Love** does **not** act **unbecomingly** → “aschemoneo” – **unseemly**

Therefore be **imitators of God**, as **beloved children**; and **walk in love**,...

But **immorality** or any **impurity** or **greed** must **not** even be named among you,
as is **proper** among **saints**; and *there must be* **no filthiness** and **silly talk**,
or **coarse jesting**, which are **not fitting**, but rather **giving of thanks**.
(Ephesians 5:1-2a, 3-4)

F. **Love** does **not seek its own** → “ou zetei ta eautes” – is **not selfish** or
self-centered

...make my **joy complete**...maintaining the **same love**,..

Do **nothing** from **selfishness** or **empty conceit**,
but with **humility of mind** regard **one another** as **more important** than
yourselves; do **not** *merely* look out for your **own personal interests**,
but also for the **interests of others**. (Philippians 2:3-4)

G. **Love** is **not provoked** → “paroxuno” – **roused to anger**, stirred up

Do not **hasten** in your **spirit** to be **angry**,
For **anger** rests in the **bosom of fools**. (Ecclesiastes 7:9)

A **stone** is **heavy** and the **sand** **weighty**,
But the **provocation** of a **fool** is **heavier** than **both of them**. (Proverbs 27:3)

H. **Love** does **not take into account a wrong suffered** → “ou logizetai to kakon”- does **not** keep a “record” one’s **wrongdoing**

You shall **not** take **vengeance**, nor **bear any grudge** against the sons of your people, but you shall **love your neighbor as yourself**; I am the LORD.
(Leviticus 19:18)

He who **covers** a transgression **seeks love**,
but he who **repeats** a matter **separates** intimate friends. (Prov. 17:9)

I. **Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth** → “ou chairei epi te adikia synchairei de te aletheia” – does **not rejoice in iniquity** (or have **pleasure** in those have **fallen into sin**), but **rejoices** in that which is **virtuous, pious, and good**

Let **love** be without hypocrisy.
abhor what is **evil**; **cling** to what **is good**. (Romans 12:9)

J. **Love bears all things** → “stego” – to **hold out** against, **endure**

...I (Paul), the **prisoner of the Lord**, implore you to **walk** in a manner worthy of the **calling** with which you have been **called**,... with **patience**, showing **tolerance** for **one another in love**, (Eph. 4:1-2)

K. **Love believes all things** → “pisteuo” – to be **persuaded** of, to **trust**

A friend **loves** at **all times**,
and a **brother** is born for **adversity**. (Proverbs 17:17)

L. **Love hopes all things** → “elpizo” - “favorable and **confident expectation**,”
the **happy anticipation** of **good**

Let us **hold fast** the **confession of our hope** without **wavering**,
for **He** who **promised is faithful**; and let us consider how to **stimulate one another to love** and **good deeds**, (Hebrews 10:23-24)

M. **Love endures all things** → “hupomeno” – “to **abide** under, **bear up** courageously” (under **suffering**)

For you showed **sympathy** to the **prisoners** and **accepted joyfully**
the **seizure of your property**, knowing that you have for yourselves
a **better possession** and a **lasting one**.

Therefore, **do not** throw away **your confidence**, which has a **great reward**.

For you have need of **endurance**,
so that when you have **done** the **will of God**,
you may **receive** what was **promised**. (Hebrews 10:34-36)

N. **Love never fails**; → “ekpipto” – never “falls away,” or **ceases to be**

Give thanks to the **God of heaven,**
For His lovingkindness is *everlasting*. (Psalm 136:26)

The one who **does** not love does not know God, for God is love. (I John 4:8)

Concluding Comments