

Tradition tells us that the aged apostle John, in bidding farewell to his congregation, admonished them to love one another. “But, we want something new,” they said. “Give us a new commandment.”

John replied, “Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning ... that we should love one another!” (I John 2:7; 3:11)

THE POWER OF LOVE

The Fullness of God

- **Eph 3:14-19** *“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”*
- **Rom 13:8-10** *“Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not bear false witness,” “You shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”*

The Greatest is Love

- **1Cor 12:28-31** *“And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.”*
- **1Cor 13:1-13** *“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.”...*

“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

Love Perfected

- **Knowing God Through Love**

- 1John 4:7-11

- Vs. 8 “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

- **Seeing God Through Love**

- 1John 4:12-16

- Vs. 12 “No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.”

- **Perfection of Love**

- 1John 4:17-19 *“Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.”*

Abba, Father

- A mother found under her plate one morning at breakfast a bill made out by her small son, Bradley, aged eight—Mother owes Bradley: for running errands, 25 cents; for being good, 10 cents; for taking music lessons, 15 cents; for extras, 5 cents. Total, 55 cents.
- Mother smiled but made no comment. At lunch Bradley found the bill under his plate with 55 cents and another piece of paper neatly folded like the first. Opening it he read—Bradley owes Mother: for nursing him through scarlet fever, nothing; for being good to him, nothing; for clothes, shoes and playthings, nothing; for his playroom, nothing; for his meals, nothing. Total: nothing.
- **Rom 8:12-15** *“Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”“*

Love From A Pure Heart

- Sometimes people want to stop focusing on the Bible so much and focus on Love, however this misunderstands the reason we need to read, study and teach the Word consistently.
- **2Tim 3:16-17** *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."*
- **1Tim 1:5** *"Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,"*