

1 Peter Series

Lesson #129

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Biblical Love

1 Peter 4:8



1ST PETER

LIVING IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY

1 Pet. 4:8, “And above all things have fervent love for one another, for ‘love will cover [hide, conceal] a multitude of sins.’ ”

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**ἐκτενής; *ektenēs, ektenes (ekteinō)*,
properly, *stretched out*; figuratively,
resolute, *tenacious, unflinching,*
unwavering, earnest, passionate (an
intense enthusiasm for something, not
passionate in the sense of an outburst
of emotion), with integrity cf., 1 Pet. 1:22**

1 Pet. 1:22, “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart (with integrity of soul),”

John 13:34, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

John 13:35, “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 15:12, “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

John 15:17, “These things I command you, that you love one another.”

What the Bible Teaches About Christian Love



1. Jesus' command to love, in the upper room.

John 13:34, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”

1 John 2:7, “Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard.”

**“in the beginning” is from the beginning of
the Church Age, i.e., John 13:34–35**

2. The old commandment is that which was instantiated in the Old Covenant or the Mosaic Law.

Lev. 19:18, “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.”

Gal. 5:14, “For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

James 2:8, “If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law, according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing well.”

3. The commandment of Lev. 19:18, as part of the Mosaic Law, was addressed to both believers and unbelievers.

4. In the Old Covenant the object of love was “neighbor,” i.e., anyone, believer or unbeliever.

5. “Neighbor” is further defined by our Lord in the parable of the Good Samaritan, as anyone that comes in your periphery, whether you know them or not, whether they are attractive to you or not, whether you have a relationship with them or not.

***Love is proactive, not passive.**

6. The Object of love is anyone, the standard is: as you love yourself.

7. Conclusion of points 3–6, the passage is addressed to unbelievers and believers, for application to believers and unbelievers and is therefore able to be fulfilled in a relative sense by unbelievers.

*****The New Commandment to the church is quite different:**

**8. First, it is addressed to believers only:
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you are My disciples.**

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****Note: Distinction between disciples and believers: disciples are believers who have made the pursuit of spiritual maturity through learning and application of doctrine the number one priority in their life.**

9. The object of the command is directed to all believers: “one another”, i.e., believers!

**10. The standard is “as I have loved you.”
The unique love of God the Father for
the world as demonstrated at the
Cross.**

11. The mandate to love can only be truly exemplified by the advancing believer in spiritual maturity.

12. Key verses:

Rom. 5:8, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

John 15:13, “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”

1 John 3:16, “We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

2 John 1:6, “And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it.”

Matt. 22:36, “ ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’

Matt. 22:37, “And He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

Matt. 22:38, “This is the great and foremost commandment.

Matt. 22:39, “The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

Matt. 22:40, “ ‘On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.’ ”

The Integrity of God

Psa. 89:14, “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.”

ESSENCE OF GOD

Sovereign

Omniscience

Righteousness

Omnipresent

Justice

Omnipotent

Love

Veracity

Eternal Life

Immutability

ESSENCE OF GOD

Sovereign

Omniscience

Righteousness

Omnipresent

Justice

Omnipotent

Love

Righteousness

Eternal

Love

Justice

Truth

Psa. 11:7, “For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.”

Psa. 33:5, “He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.”

Psa. 97:2, “Clouds and darkness surround Him; Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.”

1 John 4:8, “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

1 John 4:16, “And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.”

Psa. 146:8, “The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; The LORD raises those who are bowed down; The LORD loves the righteous.”