

**Living Out the Great Commandments
(God's Simple Plan for an Abundant Life)**

Matt 22:35-40

35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."NIV

A. LOVE THE LORD (*love = unselfish concern that freely accepts another in loyalty & seeks his good*)

- 1. By prayer** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, & Supplication)
- 2. By immersing myself in His Word** (read, hear, study, memorize, & meditate)
- 3. By gratefully obeying His commands** (keeping the main thing the main thing)

B. LOVE MY NEIGHBOR (*neighbor = my spouse, kids, family, friends, co-workers, etc.*)

- 1. By being a friend** (*friend = one attached to another by affection or esteem*)
- 2. By sharing adventures** (*adventure = a remarkable experience involving danger & unknown risks*)
- 3. By accurately & relevantly communicating the Gospel message**
(occasionally use words)

Helping them to: get saved; get well; get going !!!

Col 1:28-2:1 28 We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. 29 To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me. NIV

Love - NT:25

agapao, agapoo; a. to love, to be full of good-will and exhibit the same: Luke 7:47; 1 John 4:7 f; b. with the accusative of the person, to have a preference for, wish well to, regard the welfare of c. used often in the First Epistle of John of the love of Christians toward one another; d. used of the benevolence which God, in providing salvation for men, has exhibited by sending his Son to them and giving him up to death e. used of the love which led Christ, in procuring human salvation, to undergo sufferings and death, Gal 2:20; Eph 5:2; f. used of the love with which God regards Christ, John 3:35; g. When used of love to a master, God or Christ, the word involves the idea of affectionate reverence, prompt obedience, grateful recognition of benefits received h. With an accusative of the thing *agapao* denotes to take pleasure in the thing, prize it above other things, be unwilling to abandon it or do without it i. to welcome with desire, long for 2 Tim 4:8 j. Concerning the unique proof of love which Jesus gave the apostles by washing their feet, John 13:1 k. John 17:26; Eph 2:4 (from Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 2000 by BibleSoft)

LOVE

A. Verbs.

1. *agapao* NT:25 and the corresponding noun *agape* (B, No. 1 below) present "the characteristic word of Christianity, and since the Spirit of revelation has used it to express ideas previously unknown, inquiry into its use, whether in Greek literature or in the Septuagint, throws but little light upon its distinctive meaning in the NT. Cf, however, Lev 19:18; Deut 6:5.

"*Agape* and *agapao* are used in the NT (a) to describe the attitude of God toward His Son, John 17:26; the human race, generally, John 3:16; Rom 5:8, and to such as believe on the Lord Jesus Christ particularly John 14:21; (b) to convey His will to His children concerning their attitude one toward another, John 13:34, and toward all men, 1 Thess 3:12; 1 Cor 16:14; 2 Peter 1:7; (c) to express the essential nature of God, 1 John 4:8.

"Love can be known only from the actions it prompts. God's love is seen in the gift of His Son, 1 John 4:9,10. But obviously this is not the love of complacency, or affection, that is, it was not drawn out by any excellency in its objects, Rom 5:8. It was an exercise of the divine will in deliberate choice, made without assignable cause save that which lies in the nature of God Himself, Cf. Deut 7:7,8.

"Love had its perfect expression among men in the Lord Jesus Christ, 2 Cor 5:14; Eph 2:4; 3:19; 5:2; Christian love is the fruit of His Spirit in the Christian, Gal 5:22.

"Christian love has God for its primary object, and expresses itself first of all in implicit obedience to His commandments, John 14:15,21,23; 15:10; 1 John 2:5; 5:3; 2 John 6.

Selfwill, that is, self-pleasing, is the negation of love to God.

"Christian love, whether exercised toward the brethren, or toward men generally, is not an impulse from the feelings, it does not always run with the natural inclinations, nor does it spend itself only upon those for whom some affinity is discovered. Love seeks the welfare of all, Rom 15:2, and works no ill to any, 13:8,9,10; love seeks opportunity to do good to 'all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of the faith,' Gal 6:10. See further 1 Cor 13 and Col 3:12-14." In respect of *agapao* as used of God, it expresses the deep and constant "love" and interest of a perfect Being towards entirely unworthy objects, producing and fostering a reverential "love" in them towards the Giver, and a practical "love" towards those who are partakers of the same, and a desire to help others to seek the Giver. (from Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words)