

Loving the Brethren

Agape- ag-ap'-pay...love-feast

The golden commandment...

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

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

How important is love...

John 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

I Jn 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

I Jn 4:12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

How much are we to love...

John 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

Rom 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

I cannot pay all the love I owe you. I will die in debt. It is the only justifiable unpaid debt in the Bible

There is not a measuring cup, bucket, set of weight scales, to measure love

Matt 19:19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Has no bounds, a love that goes beyond loving one another...

Matt 5:43-47 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44 But I say unto you, Love your *enemies*, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? 47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans

Love's has but one enemy...

As beautiful and splendid as love is, it has an enemy and an awful enemy it is.

Matt 24:12 "And because *iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*" Wax is hot and solidifies when cools. If there is fire it is molten.

All you need to do to lose your love is involve yourself with sin. Wrong crowd, careless living.

When we do not demonstrate the love of God, are we not telling on ourselves that we have been hanging around sin?

How do we learn to love...

1Thes 4:9 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are **taught of God** to love one another.

I am not teaching you to love in this sermon for I cannot. Paul said to the Thess people I will not write to you concerning love for I cannot possibly teach or train you to love. Neither can I or your Sunday School teacher.

False love...

1 Pet 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Unfeigned = hypocritical

I Jn 4:20-21 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? 21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

Our motivation for love...

I Jn 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

Evidence of love...

Rom 12:10 Be kindly **affectioned one to another** with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

Rom 16:16 **Salute one another with an holy kiss.** The churches of Christ salute you.

Gal 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love **serve one another.**

Gal 5:26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, **envying one another.**

Eph 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, **forbearing one another in love;**

Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one her, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**