



Perfecting Love:

The Bond of Perfection

What's MOST Important?

But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

Colossians 3:14

A. Love is the Primary Theme of God's Word *Matt 22:34-40*

There is nothing more insisted upon in the entire Bible than love. The entire will of God is summarized in ten words!

1. The Ten Words (Commandments of God) *Exodus 20*
—The first four define love of God *Ex 20:2-7*
—The last six define love of neighbor *Ex 20:8-17*
2. To 'love' is a law: There is no real division between law and love in God's word. *James 2:8*
3. The Ten Words are summarized in two commandments
—Love the LORD your God... *Matt 22:37*
—Love your neighbor *Matt 22:38*
—On these two commandments hang all the Law and Prophets *Matt 22:40*

B. Love is the Primary Motivation of Evangelism *Matt 9:35-38*

God's love for His creation (the world) was the motivation to send His Son to the world to bring healing, hope and salvation.

1. God so loved the world...*John 3:16*
2. Compassion is the natural 'feeling' that comes from true love. Jesus was truly compassionate to the lost sheep of Israel (and all who were lost).

"There is now no time to lose: The work of harvest brooks no delay. 'But the laborers are few.' It is hardly surprising that so few are granted to see things with [*Jesus eyes of compassion and love,*] for only those who share the **love** of His heart have been given eyes to see.

And only they can enter the harvest field."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer "The Cost of Discipleship" p203

C. Love is the Primary Characteristic of Believers

1. Love is the mark of discipleship *John 13:35*
2. Jesus commands that we love one another *John 15:12*
3. Owe nothing but a debt of love *Rom 13:8*
4. Stir up love *Heb 10:24*
5. New birth brings new love *1 Peter 1:22*
6. Love your enemies...*Mat 5:43-48*
This passage indicates that this kind of love is 'perfect' like our God the Father (:48). Compare this with the bond of perfection in *Col 3:14*.

(7) Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. (8) He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (9) In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. (10) In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

(11) Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:7-11

Put on Love

1Co 12:31

But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

1 Cor 13:1-8

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

2 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.

3 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.

4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never fails. But whether *there are prophecies*, they will fail; whether *there are tongues*, they will cease; whether *there is knowledge*, it will vanish away.