

## 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*

1. You shall have no other Gods but me.
2. You shall not make for yourself any idol, nor bow down to it or worship it.
3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
4. You shall remember and keep the Sabbath day holy.

—The last six define love of neighbor *Ex 20:8-17*

5. Respect your father and mother.
6. You must not kill.
7. You must not commit adultery.
8. You must not steal.
9. You must not give false evidence against your neighbor.
10. You must not be envious of your neighbor's goods. You shall not be envious of his house nor his wife, nor anything that belongs to your neighbor.

2. To 'love' is a law: There is no real division between law and love in God's word. *James 2:8*

**Jam 2:8** If you really fulfill *the* royal law according to the Scripture, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF," you do well;

3. The Ten Words are summarized in two commandments  
—**Love the LORD your God...** *Matt 22:37*

**Mat 22:37** Jesus said to him, 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'

—**Love your neighbor** *Matt 22:38*

**Mat 22:39** And the second is like it: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

—**On these two commandments hang all the Law and Prophets** *Matt 22:40*

**Mat 22:40** On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

#### Intro/Comments

Do you know what it means to fall in love?

Read Col 3:12-15  
Key Verse: 14 .. The bond of perfection.

If you want a 'perfect' marriage, career—or whatever—make LOVE the bond.

LOVE holds PERFECT together!

Apart from LOVE—peace can't rule! :15

## 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.

Mat 9:35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Mat 9:36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

Mat 9:37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

Mat 9:38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

1. God so loved the world...*John 3:16*

**Joh 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 everlasting life.

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*

**Joh 13:35** By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

2. Jesus commands that we love one another *John 15:12*

**Joh 15:12** This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

3. Owe nothing but a debt of love *Rom 13:8*

**Rom 13:8** Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

4. Stir up love *Heb 10:24*

**Heb 10:24** And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

Love sees (looks) beyond the surface to the heart need. (Eyes of compassion)

C. This is benchmark of behavior for the believer.

Quality control and product reliability all rolled into one word.. **Love.**

5. New birth brings new love *1 Peter 1:22*  
**1Pe 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,
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*.

Mat 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.'

Mat 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

Mat 5:45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Mat 5:46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

Mat 5:47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?

Mat 5:48 Therefore you shall be *perfect*, just as your Father in heaven is *perfect*.

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

### © Village Alive Ministries

Permissions: You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in any format provided that you cite "Pastor Mike Bayer VillageAlive.com" as the source and do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction. For web posting, a link to this document on our website is preferred.