

Love Is the Greatest

Love Is the Greatest

A Fast Review of the Main Points of a
Sermon Series Preached in 2017
of the Bible's Great Emphasis

Why this Bible study tonight?

God's providence brought us to I John 4
and brotherly love, and some do not
know or remember "Greatest."

<https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2017/love-is-the-greatest-2017/>

Why this Bible study tonight?

To be great and grow in favor with God
and men... love and service to Him
and others is the only way.

Why this Bible study tonight?

With disease and death on our minds
more than usual ... the greatest
proof of salvation is love.

But covet earnestly the best gifts:
and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

I Corinthians 12:31

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three;
but the greatest of these is charity.

I Corinthians 13:13

An inspired apostolic comparison!

Charity is better than any gift or office in the church ... better than any extreme example of any gift ... better than faith and hope.



Our religion has two commands!

Love of God and love of neighbor, and
your ultimate neighbors are those
sitting around you tonight!

What is love of God?

A passionate desire to please Him, know Him, serve Him, enjoy Him, defend Him, exalt Him!

What is love of others?

Selfless desire and service for their profit and pleasure to be the best Christians possible.

God has led us a long way in love.

And we praise and thank Him for teaching us that brotherly love is the “Greatest”!

<https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2017/love-is-the-greatest-2017/>

I John 4 Will Gloriously Display:

God Himself is love ... He showed His love
in the highest degree ... and He has
empowered us to love perfectly.

Since the greatest of these is love:

We have searched the Bible, and our study is not exhaustive ... to find the different ways that love is truly the greatest.



WARNING!

This is a superficial study.
Only few verses are used.
Only brief lessons made.
Each could be a sermon.



#1

Love is the Greatest

DUTY

How is love our DUTY?

God commanded it as our highest priority,
and we will be judged by our love
now and on Judgment Day.

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God
with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it,
Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

On these two commandments hang
all the law and the prophets.

Matthew 22:37-40

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

John 13:34

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

Romans 13:8

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this;
Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Galatians 5:14

If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture,
Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself,
ye do well:

James 2:8



#2

Love is the Greatest

CONCEPT

How is love a CONCEPT?

It is the greatest relational trait that produces the highest motivation in the giver and greatest benefit to the recipient.

**What are the two greatest
loves to the world?**

***Love of self* ... Whitney Houston**

***Lust for self* ... All Others**

This know also,
that in the last days perilous times shall come.
For men shall be lovers of their own selves....

II Timothy 3:1-2

Therefore all things whatsoever
ye would that men should do to you,
do ye even so to them:
for this is the law and the prophets.

Matthew 7:12

I have shewed you all things,
how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak,
and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said,
It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Acts 20:35

Be kindly affectioned
one to another with brotherly love;
in honour preferring one another;

Romans 12:10

Let no man seek his own,
but every man another's wealth.

I Corinthians 10:24



#3

Love is the Greatest

DEFINITION

How is love a DEFINITION?

All terms, especially required actions, must be defined, and God has defined love in the most profound, perfect way possible.

What is a short definition of love?

*Sacrificial desire producing action
to help another person realize
God's best for his/her life.*

Charity ...

suffereth long,

and is kind;

charity envieth not;

charity vaunteth not itself,

is not puffed up,

Doth not behave itself unseemly,

seeketh not her own,

is not easily provoked,

thinketh no evil;

Rejoiceth not in iniquity,

but rejoiceth in the truth;

Beareth all things,

believeth all things,

hopeth all things,

endureth all things.

I Corinthians 13:4-7

What is a long definition of love?

<https://letgodbetruer.com/sermons/index/year-2017/love-is-the-greatest-2017/>

<https://letgodbetruer.com/sermons/index/year-2003/definition-of-love/>

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger,
and clamour, and evil speaking,
be put away from you,
with all malice:

And be ye kind one to another,
tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:31-32



#4

Love is the Greatest

IDEAL

How is love an IDEAL?

It is the perfect way for men to live together and produce the greatest common good and avoid envy, fighting, and wars.

Men have foolishly sought a Utopia.

*An ideally perfect place, especially in its
social, political, and moral aspects.*

From whence come wars and fightings among you?
come they not hence, even of your lusts
that war in your members?

Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain,
The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

James 4:1-5

But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts,
glory not, and lie not against the truth.

This wisdom descendeth not from above,
but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

For where envying and strife is,
there is confusion and every evil work.

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure,
then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated,
full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality,
and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness
is sown in peace of them that make peace.

James 3:14-18

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;
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.
Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father
which is in heaven is perfect.

Matthew 5:43-48



#5

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GRACE

How is love a GRACE?

It requires the almighty and sovereign saving power of God to transform a person from selfish hatred to love others instead.

For we ourselves also
were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived,
serving divers lusts and pleasures,
living in malice and envy,
hateful, and hating one another.
But after that the kindness and love of God
our Saviour toward man appeared,
Not by works of righteousness which we have done,
but according to his mercy he saved us,
by the washing of regeneration,
and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Titus 3:3-5

And I punished them oft in every synagogue,
and compelled them to blaspheme;
and being exceedingly mad against them,
I persecuted them even unto strange cities.

Acts 26:11

And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you;
though the more abundantly I love you,
the less I be loved.

II Corinthians 12:15



#6

Love is the Greatest

EVIDENCE

How is love an EVIDENCE?

We cannot see the book of life to know our names are there, but we can be just as certain by a changed life full of love.

For in Jesus Christ
neither circumcision availeth
any thing, nor uncircumcision;
but faith which worketh by love.

Galatians 5:6

We give thanks to God always for you all,
making mention of you in our prayers;
Remembering without ceasing
your work of faith,
and labour of love,
and patience of hope
in our Lord Jesus Christ,
in the sight of God and our Father;
Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

I Thessalonians 1:2-4

And beside this, giving all diligence,
add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience;
and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness;
and to brotherly kindness charity.

Wherefore the rather, brethren,
give diligence to make your calling and election sure:
for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

II Peter 1:5-11

Shocking truth about Judgment.

Jesus will examine you in detail about the things you did for others and the cost, especially the least of His children.

Matthew 25:31-46



#7

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MEASURE

How is love a MEASURE?

God compares and examines you each day,
and His rule to approve or disapprove
is your degree of love of others.

Though I speak with the tongues
of men and of angels, and have not charity,
I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

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
and have not charity, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor,
and though I give my body to be burned,
and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

I Corinthians 13:1-3

But Jesus called them unto him, and said,
Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise
dominion over them, and they that are great
exercise authority upon them.

But it shall not be so among you:
but whosoever will be great among you,
let him be your minister;
And whosoever will be chief among you,
let him be your servant:

Matthew 20:25-28

Well reported of for good works;
if she have brought up children,
if she have lodged strangers,
if she have washed the saints' feet,
if she have relieved the afflicted,
if she have diligently followed every good work.

I Timothy 5:10

Do you have any ambition to excel?

This is the measure of your life God looks at, and we look at, for it is the more excellent way of serving God.



#8

Love is the Greatest

MEANS

How is love a MEANS?

Your can accomplish more for God's glory
and Christ's kingdom with love
than anything else.

A new commandment

I give unto you, That ye love one another;
as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.
By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples,
if ye have love one to another.

John 13:34-35

But speaking the truth in love,
may grow up into him in all things,
which is the head, even Christ:

From whom the whole body fitly joined together
and compacted by that which every joint supplieth,
according to the effectual working
in the measure of every part,
maketh increase of the body
unto the edifying of itself in love.

Ephesians 4:15-16



#9

Love is the Greatest

SOURCE

How is love a SOURCE?

We can realize more benefits and live more peacefully and prosperously by love than by any other means.

Blessed is he that considereth the poor:
the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.
The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive;
and he shall be blessed upon the earth:
and thou wilt not deliver him
unto the will of his enemies.
The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing:
thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.

Psalm 41:1-3

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you;
that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things,
may abound to every good work:
Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness,
which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.
For the administration of this service not only
supplieth the want of the saints,
but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;
And by their prayer for you, which long after you
for the exceeding grace of God in you.

II Cor 9:6-15

Better is a dinner of herbs where love is,
than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.

Proverbs 15:17

If you want to obtain blessings for life:

This is the way to God's approval and favor, man's approval, favor, and prayers, and your own soul joy.



#10

Love is the Greatest

CHALLENGE

How is love a CHALLENGE?

Because you are hateful, lazy, proud, and selfish by nature, so you must work harder to love than anything else.

If a brother or sister be naked,
and destitute of daily food,
And one of you say unto them,
Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled;
notwithstanding ye give them not those things
which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

James 2:15-16

Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

I Peter 4:9

Be of the same mind one toward another.

Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate.

Be not wise in your own conceits.

Romans 12:16

Hereby perceive we the love of God,
because he laid down his life for us:
and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

I John 3:16

Some are obsessed by challenges:

*Why not take on a project to love others
the way God defined it in the Bible,
instead of teenager's games.*



#11

Love is the Greatest

EXAMPLE

How is love an EXAMPLE?

God calls us to recognize His incredible example of love and to show that manner of love to others.

Herein is love,
not that we loved God,
but that he loved us, and sent
his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

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

I John 4:10-11

Brethren, be followers together of me,
and mark them which walk so as ye
have us for an ensample.

Philippians 3:17



#12

Love is the Greatest

BOND

How is love a BOND?

It ties souls together for good or bad, better than even family ties according to Jesus, for, *Blood is thicker than blood.*

And above all these things put on charity,
which is the bond of perfectness.

Colossians 3:14

There is neither Jew nor Greek,
there is neither bond nor free,
there is neither male nor female:
for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28



#13

Love is the Greatest

CURE

How is love a CURE?

Investing in others, Jesus or church members,
you can fix dysfunction or heal wounds to
maximize peace, pleasure, productivity.

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee,
because thou hast left thy first love.
Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen,
and repent, and do the first works;
or else I will come unto thee quickly,
and will remove thy candlestick out of his place,
except thou repent.

Revelation 2:4-5

A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly:
and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Proverbs 18:24

He that covereth a transgression seeketh love;
but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.

Proverbs 17:9

A gift in secret pacifieth anger:
and a reward in the bosom strong wrath.

Proverbs 21:14



#14

Love is the Greatest

EXTREME

How is love an EXTREME?

It is so contrary to man's inherent nature, and if matched to God's standard and scriptures, it easily transcends all human comparisons.

Think about the example of Saul/Paul:

Saul hated Christians exceedingly;

Paul loved Christians dearly.

*Apostles argued about greatness,
But then became servants of slaves.*

Nay, much more those members of the body,
which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:
And those members of the body,
which we think to be less honourable,
upon these we bestow more abundant honour;
and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

I Corinthians 12:22-25

And Jesus answering said,

A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho,
and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment,
and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.
And by chance there came down a certain priest that way:
and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place,
came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.
But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was:
and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

Luke 10:25-37

Then said he also to him that bade him,
When thou makest a dinner or a supper,
call not thy friends, nor thy brethren,
neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours;
lest they also bid thee again,
and a recompence be made thee.
But when thou makest a feast, call the poor,
the maimed, the lame, the blind:

And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee:
for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

Luke 14:12-14



#15

Love is the Greatest

ERROR

How is love an ERROR?

It is made so by man's selfish narcissism to love self over others, to call lust love, and to invent unconditional love.

We have dealt with all three follies:

<https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2004/lie-of-self-love/>

<https://letgodbettrue.com/proverbs/index/chapter-7/>

<https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2004/lie-of-unconditional-love/>

He saith unto him the third time,
Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?
Peter was grieved because he said unto him
the third time, Lovest thou me?
And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things;
thou knowest that I love thee.
Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

John 21:17

For even when we were with you,
this we commanded you,
that if any would not work,
neither should he eat.

II Thessalonians 3:10

For every man shall bear his own burden.

Galatians 6:5



#16

Love is the Greatest

CREATIVITY

How is love CREATIVITY?

It is such a powerful passion with objects and opportunities everywhere at all times that it calls forth the most precious things.

You do not grasp love's creativity?

Think back to when you were in love and pursuing a person for love and marriage. There was no limit to what you could think of or cost or time of what you would do!

But the liberal deviseth liberal things;
and by liberal things shall he stand.

Isaiah 32:8

Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity.

I Peter 5:14

We saw and tasted creativity Sunday.

II Samuel 6:19



#17

Love is the Greatest

INVESTMENT

How is love an INVESTMENT?

If you choose to go after another person by affection, service, words of affirmation, both they and you will soon flourish.

Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe;
let her breasts satisfy thee at all times;
and be thou ravished always with her love.

Proverbs 5:19

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee,
because thou hast left thy first love.
Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen,
and repent, and do the first works....

Revelation 2:4-5

With her much fair speech she caused him to yield,
with the flattering of her lips she forced him.

Proverbs 7:21



#18

Love is the Greatest

PURIFIER

How is love a PURIFIER?

God is love. When we love like we should, it purges from our mind our former hateful, sinful selfishness to be more like Him.

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:

I Peter 1:22

And the Lord make you to increase and abound
in love one toward another, and toward all men,
even as we do toward you:
To the end he may stablish
your hearts unblameable in holiness before God,
even our Father, at the coming of our Lord
Jesus Christ with all his saints.

I Thessalonians 3:12-13



#19

Love is the Greatest

BUILDER

How is love a **BUILDER**?

It moves you to serve others in such a way that it is well received and accomplishes its desired goal of growth and/or help.

And Jonathan Saul's son arose,
and went to David into the wood,
and strengthened his hand in God.

I Samuel 23:16

But speaking the truth in love,
may grow up into him in all things,
which is the head, even Christ:

From whom the whole body fitly joined together
and compacted by that which every joint supplieth,
according to the effectual working in the measure of every part,
maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Ephesians 4:15-16



#20

Love is the Greatest

EQUALIZER

How is love an EQUALIZER?

It ignores age, sex, race, culture, economics, profession, and even Christian liberties to love without discrimination.

There is neither Jew nor Greek,
there is neither bond nor free,
there is neither male nor female:
for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28

But now hath God set the members every one
of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

And if they were all one member, where were the body?

But now are they many members, yet but one body.

And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee:
nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

I Corinthians 12:18-21



#21

Love is the Greatest

LIBERATOR

How is love a LIBERATOR?

It allows each person their own freedom and preferences in things that do not matter, and it avoids offending with them.

But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat,
now walkest thou not charitably.

Destroy not him with thy meat,
for whom Christ died.

Romans 14:15

Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend,
I will eat no flesh while the world standeth,
lest I make my brother to offend.

I Corinthians 8:13



#22

Love is the Greatest

COMFORTER

How is love a COMFORTER?

Showing love, which can be done many ways, is the most assuring and strengthening force among men and women.

And from thence,
when the brethren heard of us,
they came to meet us as far as Appii forum,
and The three taverns: whom when Paul saw,
he thanked God, and took courage.

Acts 28:15

For, when we were come into Macedonia,
our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side;
without were fightings, within were fears.

Nevertheless God, that comforteth those
that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus;
And not by his coming only, but by the consolation
wherewith he was comforted in you,
when he told us your earnest desire,
your mourning, your fervent mind toward me;
so that I rejoiced the more.

II Corinthians 7:5-7

Love Is the Greatest

A Fast Review of the Main Points of a
Sermon Series Preached in 2017
of the Bible's Great Emphasis

God has led us a long way in love.

And we praise and thank Him for teaching
us that brotherly love is the “Greatest”!

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But covet earnestly the best gifts:
and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

I Corinthians 12:31

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three;
but the greatest of these is charity.

I Corinthians 13:13



Our religion has two commands!

Love of God and love of neighbor, and
your ultimate neighbors are those
sitting around you tonight!

For Further Study

Love Is the Greatest ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2017/love-is-the-greatest-2017/>

***** Do not overlook all the links at the end of this important sermon series. *****

The Definition of Love ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2003/definition-of-love/>

Loose Your Bowels ... <https://vimeo.com/654964485/2ff14149f9>

The Lie of Self-Love ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2004/lie-of-self-love/>

The Lie of Unconditional Love ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2004/lie-of-unconditional-love/>

One Another Duties ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/bible-topics/index/church/one-another-duties/>

Brotherly Love ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2004/brotherly-love/>

Bowels of Compassion ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2002/bowels-of-compassion/>

Why Wear Pretty Shoes? ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2000/why-wear-pretty-shoes/>

Selfish or Selfless ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2013/selfish-or-selfless/>

For Love of a Soul ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2008/for-love-of-a-soul/>

Love the One You're With ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2006/love-the-one-youre-with/>

Reviving First Love ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2005/reviving-first-love/>

Blood Is Thicker than Blood ... <https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2002/blood-is-thicker-than-blood/>