

“OUR AGAPE IN OUR CHARACTER IN SERVING THE LORD”

**Mission Statement:** *to passionately serve GOD and to compassionately serve others—ALL to the glory of GOD!*

God commands that we take action. He has given us the spiritual gifts and the grace to do “*His good pleasure*”—His perfect will. We need genuine love to accomplish this.

### I. Practice \_\_\_\_\_ Love (v. 9)

Our love should be \_\_\_\_\_. Spirit filled people should love differently than the world such as loving those who may be difficult to love as well as loving those who are easy to love.

**1 John 4:8** He that loveth not knoweth not **God**; for **God** is love. (cf. 1 John 4:16)

In the quietness of your own heart, what do you love?

#### A. Love God \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 22:37-38)

##### 1. We are to love God \_\_\_\_\_

All other loves will benefit from this unique, exclusive love for God.

##### 2. We are to love God \_\_\_\_\_

##### 3. We are to love God \_\_\_\_\_

When we love God supremely we will take on His mindset of love as well as His mindset of hate.

#### B. \_\_\_\_\_ what God \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm 97:10** Ye that love the **LORD**, hate evil:(Cf. Proverbs 8:13; Psalm 119:104)

This evil is that which would cause us to have \_\_\_\_\_ fellowship with God which is being disobedient to God.

Genuine love is displayed in hating that which destroys lives.

#### C. \_\_\_\_\_ what God \_\_\_\_\_

Genuine love is displayed in consistently clinging to what is good—what builds up and encourages others.

## II. Practice \_\_\_\_\_ Love (v. 10)

### A. Be devoted to \_\_\_\_\_ one another

“*kindly affectioned*” is a \_\_\_\_\_ kind of family love—love that is characterized by devotion to each other.

**1 John 3:14** We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death.

The Bible speaks frequently about this kind of genuine devoted love that we are to have for one another. It is displayed in...

† Psalm 103:13 – \_\_\_\_\_

† Proverbs 3:12 – \_\_\_\_\_

† 1 Thessalonians 2:7 – \_\_\_\_\_

† 1 Thessalonians 2:11 – \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Be devoted to \_\_\_\_\_ one another

This word, “*preferring*” carries the idea of \_\_\_\_\_ the way. We are to set the example of respecting others and preferring that others receive honor before we do.

**Philippians 2:3** *Let nothing be done* through strife [*selfish ambition*] or vainglory [*empty praise*]; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better [*more important*] than themselves.

As we combine these two verses we can see how we are to set the example by preferring honor for each other before ourselves.

**John 13:34-35** A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. **35** By this shall all *men* know that ye are **My** disciples, if ye have love one to another.

How does God see you love? Is it genuine or hypocritical?

#### What is my next step?

(*Put off*) What must I put off that is both hinder my walk with Christ or someone else’s?

(*Renew your mind*) What qualities or Words of Christ must I meditate upon?

(*Put on*) What qualities of Christ must I seek to have as a characteristic of my life?