

# Keep Your Eye On The Ball!

## Pursuing Our Biblical Mandate in a Godless Culture



Part 4. Love Is Essential

Andy Chappell

### INTRODUCTION:

#### MAIN IDEA:

More than any other quality, love is the supreme identifying mark and primary pursuit of the Christian.

### A. The Basics of Love (Love 101)

1. Love can be simply defined as the desire for and the personal pursuit of the highest welfare of others.
2. Biblical love can be subdivided into unconditional love and love based on tender affection.
3. God demonstrates His love to mankind through Christ's sacrificial death. (Romans 5:8)
4. We are transformed by God's love in order to provide it to others. (1 John 4:19)
5. God's essential commands for us are to love Him and to love others as ourselves. (Mark 12:28-31)
6. We are expected to extend love even to our enemies. (Luke 6:27-35)
7. Our capacity to love God and others is proof of our genuine spiritual birth. (1 John 2:5; 3:10,14,17; 4:20-21)
8. Our love for God is demonstrated by personal obedience. (John 14:15, 21, 21-24)
9. The Holy Spirit develops the fruit of love in the Christian's personal character. (Galatians 5:22)

---

*<sup>28</sup> And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup> The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*

\* Mark 12:28-31, ESV

---

### B. Four High Demands of Christian Love (Love 211)

1. Our love for one another must be demonstrative to the world to judge us as Christ's disciples. (John 13:35)
2. Our love for others is demonstrated by service (Galatians 5:13) and truth-telling (Ephesians 4:15).
3. Our love for one another is to be sincere and deeply from the heart. (1 Peter 1:22)
4. Our love for one another is expected to continually increase. (Philippians 1:9; 1 Thess 3:12, Hebrews 10:24)

## C. The Expanded Description of Love (Love 321)

---

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things...<sup>13</sup> So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

\* 1 Corinthians 13:4-7,13, ESV

---

1. Love is even more of a personal priority than faith and hope.
2. Love is demonstrated through the following positive qualities:
  - *Patience, Kindness, Rejoicing in the truth, Forbearance, Believing in others, Hopefulness and Endurance.*
3. Love prohibits us from practicing the following negative qualities:
  - *Personal envying, Boasting, Arrogance, Rudeness, Personal demands, Irritability, Resentment, and Gloating in Wrongdoing.*

## D. Repentance over The Loss of Love (The Church at Ephesus)

---

*“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands’ <sup>2</sup> ‘I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. <sup>3</sup> I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary. <sup>4</sup> But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.*

\* Revelation 2:1-5, ESV

---

Positive church attributes are commendable,

*(hard work, patient endurance, intolerance of evil, testing false prophets, and patient, tireless forbearance in persecution)*

but Jesus regards *lovelessness* as condemnable in His church. (Revelation 2:1-5)

### Application:

1. Ask yourself this question **genuinely**: Is what I’m thinking and doing being “done in love?” (1 Corinthians 16:14)
2. How can I stir up others to love and good works for others? (Hebrews 10:24)
3. In which situations have I responded in unloving ways to family, friends or enemies and must confess sin?
4. In what specific ways should I be actively demonstrating love in the lives of others around right me?

### Ponder Point

Even without speaking a word for Christ, would people correctly identify you as one of His disciples based squarely on your demonstrative, loving actions toward others?