

THE ONE WHO LOVES IS THE ONE WHO KNOWS GOD

I. A LACK OF LOVE IS ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS FOR PROBLEMS IN LIFE

II. LOVING ONE ANOTHER - THE 2ND MOST IMPORTANT COMMANDMENT - Mark 12:31

III. LOVING ONE ANOTHER IS GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE

IV. LOVING ONE ANOTHER – IT IS NOT “EROS”, “PHILEO” BUT “AGAPE” LOVE

This is a godly, spiritual and supernatural love. This love is not by your own flesh, but by the power of the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:17, 22, 24; Ephesians 3:14-17, 5:18

V. TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER YOU NEED TO BE BORN OF GOD, TO BE BORN AGAIN

VI. DON'T SUBSTITUTE “PHILEO” LOVE FOR “AGAPE” LOVE - 1 Peter 1:22

VII. GOD WANTS YOU TO EXCEL IN LOVING ONE ANOTHER – 1 Thessalonians 4:10-11

You are to keep growing in both the depth of your love and different dimensions of love. Colossians 3:12-13, 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Galatians 5:22

VIII. TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER YOU NEED TO KNOW GOD

Vines - know “*frequently indicates a relation between the person knowing and the object known; in this respect, what is known is of value or importance to the one who knows.*”

A. The word know is in the present tense, meaning that to love one another you need to have a continuing and ongoing relationship with God. John 13:1, John 15:4-5

B. A person who is loving others knows God, and knows God's love. You can only love others as you are experiencing God's love in your own life. You are to love others in the same way that God loves you. 1 John 4:19, Matthew 5:48

C. A person who knows God's love is able to love others because he is satisfied by God's love and isn't thinking of how others can love him, but is thinking of how he can love others. Proverbs 30:23; Psalm 90:14, 63:1-4

D. A person who knows God's love is energized and motivated to love others. He wants to love others and he can love others.

IX. A NON-CHRISTIAN CANNOT LOVE OTHERS IN A GODLY WAY – 1 John 4:8

X. THE PERSON WHO DOES NOT LOVE DOES NOT KNOW GOD

The person who doesn't love is either unsaved or he is in sin, is discouraged, disobedient or worldly. *"Since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?"* 1 Corinthians 3:3

XI. GOD IS LOVE

THIS IS MY COMMANDMENT,
THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER, JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.
GREATER LOVE HAS NO ONE THAN THIS,
THAT ONE LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.

John 15:12-13

SOME QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

1. What is the main thing you believe that God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. When you think about the problems in your life and in the world around you, can you see why so much of this comes back to this area of love?
3. Loving others doesn't happen naturally. Explain what this means?
4. What are some specific ways that you can love others? How can you excel in loving others?
5. Are you experiencing and being satisfied by God's love? Why or why not?
6. You need to be loved by God if you are going to love others. Explain this.
7. Think and pray about the people that you believe God wants you to love?
How specifically can you love them?