

DEVELOPING AN ATMOSPHERE OF LOVE

1) God **w_____ us to love each other and develop an atmosphere of love**

God wants LOVE to be our **t__ p_____**, our **p_____ i_____**, and the **d_____ c_____** of our lifestyle!

Matthew 22:34-40: “ ... which is the greatest commandment in the Law? Jesus replied, “**Love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: **Love your neighbor** as yourself. **All** the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commands”.

John 13:34-35: “A new **command** I give you: **Love one another**. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this **all men will know you are my disciples, if you love one another**.”

Ephesians 4:32-5:2: “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and **live a life of love**, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God”.

- **God’s dominant attribute is love, He first loved us, and wants us to love others! (I John 4:7-21)**
- **God wants us to love each other deeply, from the heart (I Peter 1:22)**

2) **Love has b_____!**

- Love covers a multitude of sins/wrongs (I Peter 4:8)**
- Love and truth are catalysts that spark spiritual growth (Eph 4:15)**
- Love is foundational for relationship building (Romans 12:9-16)**
- Loving people develops God love within us, and draws us closer to God (I John 4:7-12, especially verse 12)**
- Love can help restore fallen people (2 Cor 2:5-8)**
- Love attracts others, including unbelievers (John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42-47)**

g) Love _____

3) God has taught us h_____ we should love, and h_____ we can develop an atmosphere of love!

Luke 10:25-37: The Parable of the Good Samaritan

What can we learn about Biblical love from this story?

Characteristics of Biblical love:

Caring/Compassion

Choice and proactively leaving our comfort zones

Unconditional

Sacrificial

Actions

Meets Needs

The Golden Rule

Matthew 7:12 “So **in everything, do** to others **what you would have them do to you**, for this sums up the Law and the prophets”. (fyi – shorter version found in Luke 6:31).

The Golden Rule is **inclusive** (“in everything”), **proactive and action oriented** (“do”), **positive** (“do to others what you would have them do to you”), and it’s **personal** (“you”).

Characteristics of Love from I Corinthians 13

Great giftedness and great works without love have minimal value (verses 1-3)

What Love is and what Love is not (verses 4-8):

Love is patient ... is kind

Love does not envy ... does not boast ... is not proud not rude ... not self-seeking ... not easily angered

Love keeps no record of wrongs

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth

Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres

Love never fails

Love is supreme (verse 13)

Other biblical teachings:

- **Love includes Actions (I John 3:11-24)**
- **Our love for each other needs to grow (I Thes 4:9-10)**
- **Love comes from a pure heart, good conscience and sincere faith (I Tim 1:3-5)**
- **We need to meet together regularly and stimulate each other to Love and Good Works! (Hebrews 10:24-25)**
- **We need to keep on loving each other as brothers/sisters (Hebrews 13:1)**

CASE STUDY: the brothers James & John. From “Sons of Thunder” to loving leaders (Mark 3:17; Luke 9:51-56; I John)