



The Greatness Of the Love Of God

“You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.” (Hebrews 1:9)

“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.” (Romans 12:9)

“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:13)

1. Of all gifts, whether spiritual gifts or ministry gifts, love is the greatest characteristic and motive to seek after and grow in.
2. We are to love people and, at times, hate what they do.
3. Kenneth Hagin told Rhema students that nothing could replace love from a minister.
 - a. Good teaching is not enough.
 - b. A minister who loves his people will have a growing and thriving church.
 - c. Brother Millard is a good example.
 - d. No limit to one who teaches good and loves people.
4. Just as Paul told us in 1 Corinthians 12, love is the main objective when desiring or functioning in a gift given to us from God.
 - a. Jesus did not come primarily to preach or teach.
 - b. He came, preached, taught, healed, and died as proof that He so loved the world.
 - c. Love was Jesus’s motive for everything, even striking the moneychangers.
5. Hypocrite is a Greek word for a stage actor who hides behind a mask when playing in a drama or comedy.
 - a. Hypocrisy is a poison that can make the best of people and actions deadly.
 - b. Our motives must be from love and without any selfish desires at all. A little hypocrisy leavens the whole loaf.
 - c. The stage of life must have people without masks to give genuine answers to a lost world.
 - I. Love cares for and witnesses to the lost.
 - II. Feeding the hungry and giving clothes shows love.
 - III. Visiting those in prison and hospitals shows love.
 - IV. Feeding God’s sheep the Word of God shows love.
 - d. Love can be falsely shown by a hypocrite.
6. A pagan world and religion have nothing to offer except hypocrisy. The end of their faith is destruction.
7. We are God’s temple, the home of the Holy Spirit.

- a. Since God is love and His Spirit lives in us, the first thing from our temple should be love for others.
 - b. Jesus came out of the Father's love for the world and gave His life. So it should also be with us.
 - c. The chief characteristic of our Father should be our chief characteristic. "For God so loved the world..."
8. There is no definition of love given in our passage, only the characteristics of love.
 - a. You cannot define a sunset, only enjoy its beauty.
 - b. You cannot define your love for your wife or children, but only enjoy its feelings and benefits.
 - c. Beauty defined is beauty destroyed. A kiss defined: *"A kiss is an anatomical juxtaposition between two orbicularis oris muscles in a state of contraction."*
 9. God simply says that love is a heart filled with His presence, bared for the world to see.
 10. There are four Greek words for love.
 - a. *Eros* – so based in definition that it was not used in the New Testament.
 - b. *Phelos* – brotherly, companion, or friendship love. Used for good toward other people or for bad as the love of money.
 - c. *Storge* – family or community love.
 - d. *Agape* – the love that comes from God, not based on the character of the receiver but on the character of the One who gives it.
 11. Love of others is visible display of spiritual maturity. (1 John 4:7-8)

Qualities Of The Outward Display Of Divine Love

1. Not hasty. Waits patiently on the Lord Who will right all wrong. "You have need of patience."
2. Not inconsiderate but benevolent. Looks for the best in others.
3. Kind, full of goodness, constructive, building up others.
4. Not envious of others but happy for them and content with what they own.
5. Not jealous but rejoices with those who receive honor.
6. Not boastful but appreciative and gives credit to those who contribute to its success. i.e. Moms, dads, teachers, bosses, writers, God's Word.
7. Not anxious to impress or show off. Does not look for applause.
8. Not arrogant or puffed up but humble. Not carrying an inflated sense of its own importance.
9. Not haughty but gracious. "You are not as important as you think."
10. Not rude but courteous. No need to look down on others.
11. Does not behave unseemly but with good manners. Does not need to draw attention to itself.
12. Always polite, respecting others and their rights.
13. Not selfish, not seeking its own benefit. "What is in this for me?"
14. Not irritable but of good temper. Not touchy.

15. Not vindictive or resentful. Not compiling statistics of evil. God does not remember our sins or iniquities.
16. Does not rejoice in iniquity but in the truth. Glad when truth prevails. Does not try to rise higher by pushing someone else down lower.
17. Does not desire to make known the sins of others (even though we, like God, should hate sin) but shelters the one who commits the sin.
18. Not rebellious but brave, bearing all things, knowing no limits to its endurance. When Jesus was reviled, He did not revile back.
19. Not suspicious but openly confronts all things to learn the why's of issues.
20. Not stupid or gullible, always ready to assume the best.
21. Not cynical, pessimistic, or ready to listen to gossip. Makes every allowance, looking for an explanation to see the best in others.
22. Not despondent but undiscourageable. Hopes in all things and knows no fading of hope. Does not quit giving when it has been deceived.
23. Not quick to give up but endures all things. Often believes in someone long past the time others have given up on them. Love can outlast anything.