

The Greatest Is Love 1Corinthians 13

The First Command

Love for God and man is the first command in the Bible.

Some? What about obedience to alien, work/worship to Christian?

Cannot do these w/out love; love first. Produces fruit of righteousness

Three Greek words translated love in the N. T.

Thelo - like or desire - **Mark 12:38**

Phileo - love of emotion or affection; never used in a command to love God - **John 20:2**

Agapao - love of devotion; a love that can be developed by command

1Corinthians 13; Mark 12:28-34; Matthew 22:34-40

It does not have to have love in return for love; It is not drawn out by the excellence of its object;

It leads the way by loving the unlovable

Two Primary Objects Of Our Love

Deity - encompasses God, Christ and Holy Spirit

God - **Matthew 22:37; 1John 2:4-5; 1John 5:3**

Jesus - **1Corinthians 16:22; Matthew 18:20; John 14:15-17**

Holy Spirit - the Comforter - **John 16:13-14**

Mankind - encompasses brethren, neighbors, enemies

Brethren - **John 13:34-35; Ephesians 4:32; James 2:14-17; 1John 4:20-21; Hebrews 13:1; 1Peter 1:22**

Neighbor - **Matthew 22:39; Luke 10:27-29; Romans 13:9-10**

"No chore love whole world; real problem neighbor next door."

If we love; we seek his benefit spiritual and physical

Enemies - **Matthew 5:44-45; Romans 12:20-21**

Most difficult, but must be done

Why is Love the Greatest Commandment?

Matthew 22:40

First four governs man's relationship to God

Last six governs man's relationship to man

It is universal - **John 13:35**

All can see it and understand

Love precedes all scriptural obedience; is permanent - **1Corinthians 13**

It must be cultivated and increased daily - Doesn't happen by itself!

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