

THE LIFE OF LOVE

Dancing With The Triune God

Exodus 20:4,5—Do not make for yourselves images of anything in heaven or on earth or in the water under the earth. Do not bow down to any idol or worship it . . .

Hebrews 1.3—Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person . . .

Colossians 3.14—And above all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Luke 23.34—But Jesus was saying, “ Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

Acts 7:60—Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!”

Religion can be the enemy of God. It’s often what happens when God, like Elvis, has left the building . . . My understanding of the Scriptures has been made simple by the person of Christ. Christ teaches that God is love. What does that mean? What it means for me: a study of the life of Christ. Love here describes itself as a child born in straw poverty, the most vulnerable situation of all, without honor . . . God is love, and as much as I respond in allowing myself to be transformed by that love and acting in that love, that’s my religion . . . There’s nothing hippie about my picture of Christ. The Gospels paint a picture of a very demanding, sometimes divisive love, but love it is. (Bono, Lead singer of U2, in an interview, March 2004)

Ephesians 5.1,2 (NASB)—Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

1Peter 4.7,8—The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

1Corinthians 16.14—Do everything in love.

Matthew 7.16-20—You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit.

John 13.35—By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 17:23— . . . So that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

Matthew 5.44-48— Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may become the children of your Father in heaven. For he makes his sun to shine on bad and good people alike, and gives rain to those who do good and to those who do evil . . . You must love perfectly—just as your Father in heaven is perfect. (see also Luke 6:36)

“God Is Love”—1 John 4:8

*All texts quoted from the New American Standard Bible unless otherwise noted.

Two Main Issues Within American Christianity Today

1 John 4.7,8— Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God . . .

Matthew 22.39-40—And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Romans 13.8-10—Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law . . . Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Galatians 5.14—For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

1 Corinthians 13.1-3— If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

Philippians 1.9—I pray that your love will keep on growing more and more.

1 Thessalonians 3.12—May the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow more and more . . .

2 Thessalonians 1.3—Our friends, we must thank God at all times for you. It is right for us to do so, because your faith is growing so much and the love each of you has for the others is becoming greater.

1 John 4.7,8— Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1 John 4:19—We love, because He first loved us.

1 John 3.14—We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

1 John 4.16—And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them

John 4.29—“Come and see the man who told me everything I have ever done.



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