



The Greatest of These is Love

God is Love

January 18, 2026 – Part 2

1 John 3 ¹ Look with wonder at the depth of the Father's marvelous love that he has lavished on us! He has called us and made us his very own beloved children. The reason the world doesn't recognize who we are is that they didn't recognize him. ² Beloved, we are God's children right now; however, it is not yet apparent what we will become. But we do know that when it is finally made visible, we will be just like him, for we will see him as he truly is. TPT

1 Corinthians 13 ¹³ And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 John 4 ⁷ Those who are loved by God, let his love continually pour from you to one another, because God is love. Everyone who loves is fathered by God and experiences an intimate knowledge of him. ⁸ The one who doesn't love has yet to know God, for God is love. ⁹ The light of God's love shined within us when he sent his matchless Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: He loved us long before we loved him. It was his love, not ours. He proved it by sending his Son to be the pleasing sacrificial offering to take away our sins. ¹¹ Delightfully loved ones, if he loved us with such tremendous love, then "loving one another" should be our way of life! ... ¹⁵ Those who give thanks that Jesus is the Son of God live in God, and God lives in them. ¹⁶ We have come into an intimate experience with God's love, and we trust in the love he has for us. God is love! Those who are living in love are living in God, and God lives through them. ¹⁷ By living in God, love has been brought to its full expression in us so that we may fearlessly face the day of judgment, because all that Jesus now is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ Love never brings fear, for fear is always related to punishment. But love's perfection drives the fear of punishment far from our hearts. Whoever walks constantly afraid of *punishment* has not reached love's perfection. ¹⁹ Our love for others is *our grateful response* to the love God first demonstrated to us. ²⁰ Anyone can say, "I love God," yet have hatred toward another believer. This makes him a phony, because if you don't love a brother or sister, whom you can see, how can you truly love God, whom you can't see? ²¹ For he has given us this command: whoever loves God must also demonstrate love to others. TPT

Philippians 1 ⁹ I continue to pray for your love to grow and increase beyond measure, bringing you into the rich revelation of spiritual insight in all things. TPT

Matthew 22 ³⁶ "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷ Jesus answered him, " 'Love the Lord your God with every passion of your heart, with all the energy of your being, and with every thought that is within you.' ³⁸ This is the great and supreme commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it in importance: 'You must love your friend in the same way you love yourself.' ⁴⁰ Contained within these commandments to love you will find all the meaning of the Law and the Prophets." TPT

John 15 ⁵ "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. NKJV

1 Corinthians 13 ¹ If I were to speak with eloquence in earth's many languages, and in the heavenly tongues of angels, yet I didn't express myself with love, my words would be reduced to the hollow sound of nothing more than a clanging cymbal. ² And if I were to have *the gift of prophecy* with a profound understanding of God's hidden secrets, and if I possessed unending supernatural knowledge, and if I had the greatest gift of faith that could move mountains, but have never learned to love, then I am nothing. ³ And if I were to be so generous as to give away everything I owned to feed the poor, and to offer my body to be burned as a *martyr*, without the pure motive of love, I would gain nothing of value. ⁴ Love is large and incredibly patient. Love is gentle and consistently kind to all. It refuses

to be jealous when blessing comes to someone else. Love does not brag about one's achievements nor inflate its own importance. ⁵ Love does not traffic in shame and disrespect, nor selfishly seek its own honor. Love is not easily irritated or quick to take offense. ⁶ Love joyfully celebrates honesty and finds no delight in what is wrong. ⁷ Love is a safe place of shelter, for it never stops believing the best for others. Love never takes failure as defeat, for it never gives up. ⁸ Love never stops loving. It extends beyond the gift of prophecy, which eventually fades away. It is more enduring than tongues, which will one day fall silent. Love remains long after words of knowledge are forgotten. ⁹ Our present knowledge and our prophecies are but partial, ¹⁰ but when love's perfection arrives, the partial will fade away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke about childish matters, for I saw things like a child and reasoned like a child. But the day came when I matured, and I set aside my childish ways. ¹² For now we see but a faint reflection of riddles and mysteries as though reflected in a mirror, but one day we will see face-to-face. My understanding is incomplete now, but one day I will understand everything, just as everything about me has been fully understood. ¹³ Until then, there are three things that remain: faith, hope, and love—yet love surpasses them all. So above all else, let love be the beautiful prize for which you run. TPT

2 Thessalonians 3 ¹ Finally, dear brothers and sisters, pray for us that the Lord's message will continue to spread rapidly and its glory be recognized everywhere, just as it was with you. ² And pray that God will rescue us from wicked and evil people, for not everyone believes the message. ³ But the Lord Yahweh is always faithful to place you on a firm foundation and guard you from the Evil One. ⁴ We have complete confidence in the Lord concerning you and we are sure that you are doing and will continue to do what we have told you. ⁵ Now may the Lord move your hearts into a greater understanding of God's pure love for you and into Christ's steadfast endurance. ⁶ Beloved brothers and sisters, we instruct you, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to stay away from believers who are unruly and who stray from all that we have taught you. ⁷ For you know very well that you should order your lives after our example, because we were not undisciplined when we were with you. ⁸ We didn't sponge off of you, but we worked hard night and day to provide our own food and lodging and not be a burden to any of you. ⁹ It wasn't because we don't have the right to be supported, but we wanted to provide you an example to follow. ¹⁰ For when we were with you we instructed you with these words: "Anyone who does not want to work for a living should go hungry." ¹¹ Now, we hear rumors that some of you are being lazy and neglecting to work—that these people are not busy but busybodies! ¹² So with the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, we order them to go back to work in an orderly fashion and exhort them to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters don't ever grow weary in doing what is right. ¹⁴ Take special note of anyone who won't obey what we have written and stay away from them, so that they would be ashamed and get turned around. ¹⁵ Yet don't regard them as enemies, but caution them as fellow believers. TPT

Ephesians 5 ²¹ And out of your reverence for Christ be supportive of each other in love. ²² For wives, this means being devoted to your husbands like you are tenderly devoted to our Lord, ²³ for the husband provides leadership for the wife, just as Christ provides leadership for his church, as the Savior and Reviver of the body. ²⁴ In the same way the church is devoted to Christ, let the wives be devoted to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ And to the husbands, you are to demonstrate love for your wives with the same tender devotion that Christ demonstrated to us, his bride. For he died for us, sacrificing himself ²⁶ to make us holy and pure, cleansing us through the showering of the pure water of the Word of God. ²⁷ All that he does in us is designed to make us a mature church for his pleasure, until we become a source of praise to him—glorious and radiant, beautiful and holy, without fault or flaw. ²⁸ Husbands have the obligation of loving and caring for their wives the same way they love and care for their own bodies, for to love your wife is to love your own self. ²⁹ No one abuses his own body, but pampers it—serving and satisfying its needs. That's exactly what Christ does for his church! ³⁰ *He serves and satisfies us* as members of his body. ³¹ For this reason a man is to leave his father and his mother and lovingly hold to his wife, since the two have become joined as one flesh. ³² Marriage is the beautiful design of the Almighty, a great mystery of Christ and his church. ³³ So every married man should be gracious to his wife just as he is gracious to himself. And every wife should be tenderly devoted to her husband. TPT