



Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.

Love One Another

For years I played “dodge ball” with an emotional trauma that was designed by the enemy to undermine my walk with God. Periodically it would rise to the forefront of my life commanding and demanding until I had to once again grip my faith in God with both hands. In the tightness of this grip was God’s command “Love one another.”¹ It seemed temporarily it might have been easier to march forward in bitterness and hatred, but I know the end results of this pathway. “The wages of sin is death.”² Even though we use this scripture consistently to minister to sinners, it holds deep meaning for the Christian as well. Perhaps we can understand the application of these words to our life if we read another verse in the writings of the Apostle Paul. In Romans 8 he said, “If ye live after the flesh, ye shall die.”³ Or, we may need to wrap our heart around his words to the Galatian church, “If ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.”⁴

Our great God has provided multiple references to this important truth. It is as clearly defined as the architectural drawings required by law before you can build a house. These renderings detail every foot of the new home and are signed by the proper authority. God’s Word

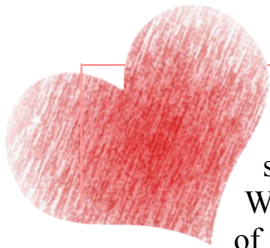
signed and sealed by the Holy Spirit reveals the fullness of His love. It illuminates the destruction of a sensual life, a flesh-centered life, and highlights the victory of every Christian who follows the command of love.

This command of love was first given by our Lord to His disciples. In John 13: 34, Jesus said, “A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.” It is important to note that His words were not a suggestion, but a commandment.

God is love and His love is in us.

Often in our life we outline a task with such trite phrases as “if you have time” or “if it seems relevant” or “if you think about it” or “if it’s not too much trouble.” But it is not so with this commandment. It lays before us the foundational principle of the New Testament. It summarizes and fulfills the Ten Commandments of the Old Testament. And it is NOT meant to be optional.

In this New Testament command, Jesus instructed us “to love one another” as He had loved us. The magnitude of this directive would



be overwhelming were it not for His “very love” poured into our spirit the day we were born again. We are new creatures with the nature of God. God is love and His love is in us. ⁵ As we allow His love to operate through us, to pour out of us, we represent Him in our world.

One way to effectively prepare our heart to obey this commandment, “to love as Jesus loved,” is to read and meditate on the description of love given to the church at Corinth. The few verses in First Corinthians 13 unfold the meaning of God’s command. Over the years I have examined these verses many times, searching out every word. I have determined not to be uprooted by “sufferings due to the pressure of circumstances, or the antagonism of persons.” I love this phrase given by Vine’s Dictionary. ⁶ When we embrace God’s Word with all our heart, it works mightily in us. The Word of God and the Spirit of God help us to “mortify the deeds of the body.” ⁷ They will enable us “to make not provision for our flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.” ⁸

Now we must not be confused by the word “lust”. The lust of the flesh is simply the desire of the flesh. Fleshly desires dominate us if we face trouble with bitterness, hatred, and impatience. When we respond to trauma with insults, anger and evil words, our flesh takes the lead. But if we obey God’s Word and His Spirit, we are “rooted and grounded” in God’s love. ⁹ His love is longsuffering and kind. ¹⁰ It refuses to be selfish, rude, or unforgiving. ¹¹

Isn’t this the goal of every Christian? We choose to obey God’s law of love. We seek to daily declare His love through our words and actions. With the Apostle Paul we pray, “The Lord make [us] to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men.” ¹² This is the way of victory! God’s love cannot fail! ¹³

¹ John 13:34; 15:12, 17

² Romans 6:23

³ Romans 8:13

⁴ Galatians 5:15

⁵ 1 John 4:8, 16

⁶ “Afflict” 4. “thilbo”; Vine’s Complete

Expository Dictionary

Of Old And New

Testament Words

⁷ Romans 8:13

⁸ Romans 13:14

⁹ Ephesians 3:17

¹⁰ 1 Corinthians 13:4

¹¹ 1 Corinthians 13:5

¹² 1 Thessalonians

3:12

¹³ 1 Corinthians 13:8

NKJV

1 Corinthians 13:4-6 paraphrased

Love is *longsuffering, patient, restrained, undisturbed, and calm.*

Love is *kind, benevolent, gracious, constructive, and obliging.*

Love is not *envious, jealous, possessive, resentful, or discontent.*

Love is not *boastful, self-assertive, blushing forward, arrogant, or conceited.*

Love is not *rude, disrespectful, indecent, or offensive.*

Love does not *seek, insist, demand, or pursue its own interests.*

Love is not *irritable, angry, touchy, fretful, or exasperated.*

Love does not *hold grudges, dwell on injuries, or record offenses.*

