

God's Love

Introduction

You have hit on one other important element of living in the kingdom of God, and that is what He says here:

“We have to abide in HIS love and we can only do that if only we keep HIS commandments.”

What is to abide in His love? Is love a feeling? Is His love a feeling that comes and goes with the wind? Does His love fly with the wind? Do we abide in His love by keeping a feeling of it in our heart, or do we live by faith, and by faith we abide in His love, and if so, then what is this love? How do we know we are doing it? So what is His love? Is it an attitude? Or is it the act of being loving? Or both?

How does keeping His commandments keep His feeling of love? Or do we keep His commandments only because we feel loving? What happens if we all of a sudden do not feel loving of the loving feeling? Do we stop acting with love because we do not feel love any more?

Or do we keep His commands by faith because we have a loving attitude that we create, maintain and control?

What is this thing called love, anyway? We make a lot out of it, we sing about it, we talk about it, we kill for it and we save for it, but what is it?

Well God put it this way:

1CO 13:1 “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. [2] If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. [3] If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.”

1CO 13:4 “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. [5] It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. [6] Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. [7] It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”

1CO 13:8 “Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is

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knowledge, it will pass away. [9] For we know in part and we prophesy in part, [10] but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. [11] When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. [12] Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”

1CO 13:13 “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. “

The bible says that “Love is ...” Whenever you see something in the bible that says “be” or “is”, then it is a state of mind, heart, a state of being or acting, it is the attitude that the Lord lived by and that we are to live by.

Lets summarize what love is (prentices my addition):

- 1. Love is patient (love waits, love has endless limits, love knows no ends)**
- 2. Love is kind (love is not mean or haughty)**
- 3. Love does not envy (but love is generous, love seeks pleasure in others happiness)**
- 4. Love does not boast (but love is gracious)**
- 5. Love is not proud (but love is humble and full of mercy)**
- 6. Love is not rude (but love is polite and well mannered)**
- 7. Love is not self-seeking (but love is self-less and seeking others welfare)**
- 8. Love is not easily angered (but love is full of peace)**
- 9. Love keeps no record of wrongs (love does not hold a grudge, but love forgives and forgets)**
- 10. Love does not delight in evil but love rejoices with the truth (in doing good, pure and living Godly)**
- 11. Love always protects (love never hurts, nor is love bitter or mean; it is never revengeful)**
- 12. Love always trusts**
- 13. Love always hopes**
- 14. Love always perseveres**
- 15. Love never fails**

For Love is God and God is love. God always has a loving attitude that never changes.

1JN 4:7 ‘Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. [8] Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. [9] This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. [10] This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. [11] Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to

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love one another. [12] No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.”

1JN 4:13 “We know that we live in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. [14] And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. [15] If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in Him and He in God. [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 Him. [17] In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like Him. [18] There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.”

1JN 4:19 “We love because He first loved us. [20] If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. [21] And He has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.”

If God is love and we have decided to have God in our heart, then we have the attitude of love in our heart. Then we are love, for we are with God and God is love.

Then God will write His love on our hearts, He writes this attitude on your heart.

So what is this love? It is having the attitude of wanting to act in the loving way, it is having to make the decision to have the loving attitude. The attitude that draws us to act in a loving way. Love is an action not a feeling, we can get the loving feeling as a reward for our action of obeying God by having the loving attitude, but we are not to depend on it, because it comes and goes like the wind. We must make the decision to have this attitude and live by this attitude whether we feel loving or not. We can create this attitude and maintain it and control it. It is up to us to do.

God's love never changes, because He has decided to have it toward His children and that settles it, it never changes, because He never changes His mind. It is His decision, just like it must be our decision.

HEB 13:6 “So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can man do to me?”

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HEB 13:7 "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. [8] **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**"

Love is an attitude and all attitudes control all of our actions. What our attitude is we are. And we control all of our attitudes, or do we?

So when we say we love you, it means that we have decided that we are going to have a loving attitude toward you, and that we will then act that way, and that way is to act loving as described above. When God says to love your enemy, He was not saying that we should have a love feeling toward them that leads to marriage, but to have this attitude above toward them.

The true love feeling is a means that God uses to draw us to the person that could be our spouse, and that comes as a decision too. But that is for another time. So for now, the love God is talking is best described in John 14, 15, and 16, the love attitude that He has for us, He wants us to have for others.

We know that we love God because we have made the decision that we will have the loving attitude and with that we will and we want to obey His commands.

The loving attitude draws us to God, for God is love and to have love is to have God, but we can only have God from faith, and faith is created by a decision to believe, to trust and to act – to have God's attitudes of being Godly.

This decision allows God to move the Holy Spirit into your heart, to anoint you and live in and with you. John 14, 15 and 16.

Who are you?

This naturally brings us to another point that God has been talking to my heart and that is:

Who are you? One of the women that I have been sharing and fellowshiping with was always saying, "well that is the way I am", or "I am always shy", or "that is how I have always done it".

That is what she answered to many questions as to why she did various things. She did not know why she did it, but she always did them. That is because that was how her ungodly parents raised her, which means that is how the world raised her, which in turn means that is how the enemy raised her, and that means that she was living with ungodly attitudes. She believed that she had no choice as to how she acted, or what her attitude was about living. She believed that this attitude was "her" and she could not change it, that is who she was.

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But that is not who God wanted her to be. So she always tried to work around it, but as your attitude is, that is how you will naturally act.

She was always in conflict between her mind—wanting to be Godly, and Her attitude—naturally acting ungodly.

This is the whole point of being “Born again”. To remove the old ungodly spirit, along with its ungodly attitudes, prejudices, feelings, and un-natural (un-Godly) way of living and replace it with God’s holy and pure human spirit and nature with its Godly attitudes, feelings and natural (Godly) way of living with and for God.

But as with the concept of being “Born again”, these things do not go easily nor does the new Godly ways and attitudes come easily. They must be learned. They must be understood, and they must be revealed by God. Just like a baby must learn to crawl before it walks, the baby Christian must learn about the Kingdom of God, how to make Godly decisions, especially about faith and attitudes. The enemy will not give up trying to get you back, he will constantly try to remind you of the old ways, and try to sneak old feelings in to you trying to draw you away from your new Godly life.

That is why you need to make decisions and keep them.

Who are you? When God asked me that I was shocked. Who am I? I did not know. So I asked Him, “Ok, who am I?” He proceeded to show me who He wanted me to be. But He said, “**You are who you want to be.** You are who you decide you are. Other words, you are what and who you want.”

He continued to say, “Whatever decision you make, I will honor. If you want to be a Christian, then I will help you be the best Christian you can be, but if you want to be a sinner, then I will not interfere and let you sin. You have your free will.”

Well I did not want to be a sinner, I was saved and I wanted to be His son—a Child of God, and I wanted to love and live for God. After I told Him so, He has helped me to be a Child of God. So we started to work on my attitude to be and act like a Child of God.

Who am I? I am a spirit filled, Christian, with God as my Father. I am one who has the love attitude of God and I am one who wants nothing more then to BE the best Christian and Child of God.

Who am I? I am a Christian, full of God’s love, power and authority. I am not of this world, I am not guided by the feelings of this world, I am not one to be deceived, for I am one with the Holy Spirit and God who leads me into all truth.

Who am I? I am a Child of God—for this is my decision of who I want to be.

Did you read the part of window control? Volume 3 chapter 4.6 Your attitudes are connected to the windows and doors. Another means to control the windows naturally, is by your nature as decided by your attitude. That is why He makes such a big deal about if you hate your brother in your heart, you have already murdered him. For the attitude of hate in your heart opens the window of hate and allows the evil spirit of hate into your heart, and because of that evil spirit, you cannot enter into Heaven.

MT 5:21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, '**Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.**' [22] **But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment.** Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' (that is to liable his brother) is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell."

Being angry is subject to judgment like a murderer, but he did not do anything physical, but angry is a feeling. Why is a feeling subject to judgment for hell? Because the feeling is controlled by evil, it is an evil feeling, and God is showing that if we are "Born again", how can we have an evil feeling living in us?

1JN 3:11 "This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. [12] Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. [13] Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. [14] We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. [15] **Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.**"

His point of heaven and hell is to keep all evil spirits out of heaven, but if you have an evil spirit living in you, how can you go to heaven? You have opened the evil window of hate and anger, and let the evil spirits into you. God will not allow any evil to enter heaven, so if you are living with evil in you, and you die, you are not going into heaven—which is why, you cannot say, once saved always saved—you must work at it constantly.

JAS 1:12 "**Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.**"

REV 2:8 "To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

These are the words of Him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. [9] I know your afflictions and your poverty--yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. [10] Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to

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test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. **Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.**

If you are "Born again", you must learn to have the loving attitude, that keeps the evil windows of hate, anger and the such, closed and the evil spirits out of you. Your attitude opens the windows and doors to the spirit world. With the loving attitude you keep the door of the Holy Spirit open and He lives there, but as soon as you allow or decide to change your attitude to an ungodly one, and you open the evil window, then He will close the door behind Him when He leaves, for He will not live in the same house as evil. He closes the door because He does not want the evil spirit to follow Him back to heaven.

The Holy Spirit will only live in the heart that has the love attitude. No love, no God, and if there is no God, then the Holy Spirit cannot live there.

This is why window control is so important. This is how you close off all of the static noise created by evil in your mind, and allow you to go into a quiet and peaceful place and with that you can hear the small still voice of God. He refuses to compete with the loud, nasty, demanding noise and voices of the evil. If you want the evil, He will allow you to have it, but if you want to be with and hear God, then you **must** remove all of the evil one from within you. You must close all windows and open God's doors.

Note: God only walks in doors, and the evil one only sneaks in windows—to steal and to kill.

One last thing for now. Following His command is how we know we love Him, but that does not mean that if we fail to always follow them that we lost to abiding in His love. We are human, we try our hardest to do this, but just because we fail does not mean that we failed His love. Remember He cares more about attitudes than the completion of the act. As long as you are willing to have that attitude and sincerely try to live in that attitude, then, that will go farther than the completion of the act. Remember, the windows, the attitudes open and close the windows. As long as the windows are closed, then the evil spirits stay out of you and allow the Holy Spirit to live in you, and that is abiding in His love. Of course failure causes problems and we should not fail, but we are human and His mercy and grace allows us to go through it again and again, until we get it right, as long as we have or are willing to have His loving attitude.

He who has the right heart with God is righteous, the attitude of being Godly.

Other words, do not beat yourself up if you fail, forgive your self, ask God to forgive you and do it again. Self-condemnation opens the evil window of depression and self-loathing--I am not good enough, etc. NO. God's mercy and grace says that no one is good enough for Him, but He is great enough for us, for we are His children, for this is who we are.

Appendix A

A Child's LOVE

A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4- to 8-year-olds, "What does love mean?"

The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined.

See what you think:

When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore, so my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love." Rebecca - age 8

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth." Billy - age 4

"Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." Karl - age 5

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs." Chrissy - age 6

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." Terri - age 4

"Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK." Danny - age 7

"Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My Mommy and Daddy are like that. They look gross when they kiss." Emily - age 8

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen," Bobby - age 7 (Wow!)

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate." Nikka - age 6

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"There are two kinds of love. Our love. God's love. But God makes both kinds of them." Jenny - age 8

"Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day." Noelle - age 7

"Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well." Tommy - age 6

"During my piano recital I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore." Cindy - age 8

"My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night." Clare - age 6

"Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken." Elaine-age 5

"Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford." Chris - age 7

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day." Mary Ann - age 4

"I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones." Lauren - age 4

"When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you." Karen - age 7

"Love is when Mommy sees Daddy on the toilet and she doesn't think it's gross." Mark - age 6

"You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget." Jessica - age 8

And the final one -- Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about a

contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child. The winner was a four-year-old child whose next-door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his Mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."

