

GOD IS LOVE

I John 4:7-21

1. GOD IS LOVE.
 1. Love is God's nature.
 2. Love is fruit of the Spirit.
 3. Becoming like God--having his nature.
 1. I Jn. 4:17 - *"Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world."*
 2. *"Know we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren."*
2. THIS IS MY COMMANDMENT.
 1. Lev. 19:18 - *"Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the Lord."*
 2. Deut. 6:4-5 - *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."*
 3. John 13:34 - *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."*
 4. I Jn. 3:11 - *"For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another."*
3. LOVE IS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW.
 1. Ro. 13:8-10 - *"Owe no man any thing, but to love one another; for*

he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."

2. Mt. 22:37-40 - *"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."*
3. How can you love God without loving your neighbour? (or wife, or husband).
4. I Jn. 4:20-21 - *"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also."*

4. SO, WHAT IS LOVE?

1. Love is not just a feeling or emotion.
2. Lust or sex is not love.
3. Love is a decision; love is a commandment.
4. Love is a commitment--loyalty, faithfulness.
5. Love is having the other's best interest at heart.
6. I Co. 13:4-7 - *"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things hopeth all things, endureth all things."*
7. Love is not self-centered or selfish.

8. Speaking the truth in love (loving someone enough to tell them the truth or to confront them).
 9. Loving your children enough to discipline them.
5. LOVE MUST BE NURTURE.
1. Giving time and attention.
 2. Sharing experiences together.
 3. Standing together in time of need.
 4. Touching, caring, caressing.
6. GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN TO LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR A FRIEND.