

“LOVE”

(I Jno. 4:7)

“7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is begotten of God, and knoweth God,” I Jno. 4:7. In this passage we have the thought of *“loving one another,”* and it is stated that *“love is of God.”* From this we would conclude that “God is love,” and all love springs from God – the source of “love” is God. There is no force manifest on the face of the earth, from whence comes love; but from God. In Rom. 1, there is a long list of characteristics designated and not in one of them can one find the aspect of **“love.”** Love is from God and not from the pagan gods of this world.

We read of **light** being from God, I Tim. 6:15, *“Lord of lights.”* Every **“spiritual blessing,”** is from God, Eph. 1:3. In James we read of **good things** coming from God: *“17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation, neither shadow that is cast by turning,”* Jas. 1:17. Then, one can read of the **“I AM’S”** and God is the source of all of the “I AM’S.” All, that is good and profitable for man, has come from God.

I read in Vine’s this statement about love, *“Love can be known from the actions it promotes.”* Found under the heading of “love,” Vol. III, P. 21. This is stating that “love” expresses itself when there is action toward someone else. Through the years I have come to express it this way: **“Love manifest itself in a person acting in a beneficial way toward others.”**

This action can be **toward God**, *“37..... Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and all thy mind,”* Matt. 22:37; *“23 If a man love me, he will keep my word,”* Jno. 14:23. This action can be **toward your neighbor**, *“39 And a second like unto it is this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself,”* Matt. 22:39. This action can be **toward thy wife**, *“25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church, and gave himself for it,”* Eph. 5:25. This action can be **toward thy husband**, *“4 that they may train the young women to love their husbands,”* Tit. 2:4, etc. It is important to establish the fact of love being that which acts toward others.

The **greatest of all** is the example of God loving us, *“16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life,”* Jno. 3:16. When he manifest his love toward us, it is easy to see that **God acted in a beneficial way toward us!** We need to remember the words of John, *“19 We love because he first loved us,”* I Jno. 4:19.

A good example of what it would be like to **not have love**, would be the man who had a bountiful crop and was perplexed as to what to do: *“16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: 17 and he reasoned within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have not where to bestow my fruits? 18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, be merry. 20 But God said unto him, Thou foolish one, this night is thy soul required of thee; and the things which thou hast prepared, whose shall they be? 21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God,”* Lk. 12:16-21. This same lesson is taught in Matt. 19:16-22. Consider the conclusion of the lesson in Matt. 19:22, *“22 But when the young man heard the saying, he went away sorrowful; for he was one that had great possessions!”* This man loved his possessions so much he could not manifest love toward God and others – **act in a beneficial manner toward others.**

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