



Our world describes love in many superficial ways. God's Word however describes love as a bond of perfection; let's see what that means.

A bond is defined as a close connection that joins together two different people through a relationship. Therefore, we can conclude that love, as defined by God, holds us in a perfect bond with Him, the result of embracing Christ as Savior and Lord.

The apostle Paul in 1Cor 13:4-7 said, "Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

Obviously, love is about desiring the best for other people, resulting in forming the bond of perfection spoken about.

Then, Romans 5:8 shows us where the source of love comes from, saying, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

The reason the apostle in 1John 4:16 wrote, "And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."

Are we enjoying this special bond of perfection with God?

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If we say we love God, it is clear that we must love our neighbor as ourselves, as Jesus commanded us on many occasions.

In Luke 10:27 He explicitly said, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

We can conclude that as believers saved by grace through the love of God for us, we are commanded to love God above everyone, even ourselves, and to love our neighbor in desiring they receive the greatest gift from God, His salvation, to be joined eternally in a bond of love with Christ.

Here are a few scriptures demanding we love:

1Cor 16:14: "Let all *that* you *do* be done with love."

1John 4:8: "He who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

John 15:9: "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love."

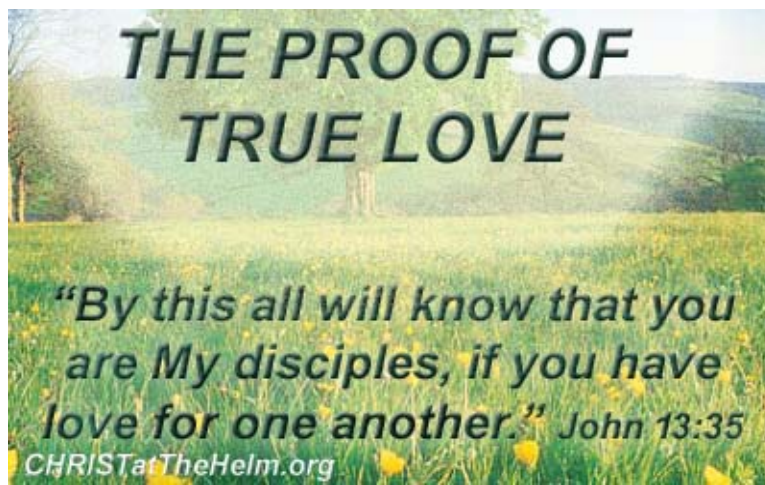
Bringing this to a common denominator, we must agree that without love, people aren't joined together with Christ, as God is love.

How far should our love go for others?

Luke 6:27-28: "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you."

How strong is our bond of love for God, and in loving our neighbor right now?

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In light of the bond of perfect love, how could we describe the attitude we must have as true believers in Christ?

Paul in Gal 2:20 gives us the heart attitude needed for that purpose saying, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Therefore, if we claim Christ as Savior, we must follow Him as Lord. Doing so is the confirmation of our faith in Christ through obedience to His word and the proof of our love for God.

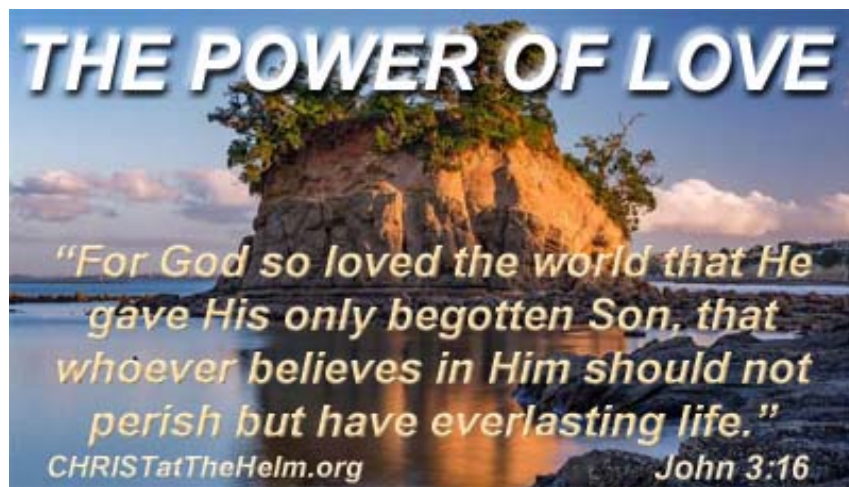
That’s why the apostle in 1John 3:18 said, “My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.” That means we must put our actions where our mouth is, right?

1John 4:7-8 adds both a command and a warning saying, “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

In other words, love is proven by our heart attitude which translates into action. And our greatest example of love is, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

Agree?

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Do we realize the extreme power of God's Love?

It is God's love that made possible for sincere believers to inherit eternal life in His presence. It is God's love that allowed Christ to suffer the consequences for our sinful nature, as we actually deserved eternal death.

How else is God's love powerful?

1John 4:18: "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."

In other words, God's love takes away fear as Philip 4:7 tells us, "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

How much more powerful is God's love?

Rom 8:38-39: "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

1Cor 13:13 says, "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love."

Then, what should we do as believers?

1Peter 4:8: "And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins."

How strong is the power of God's love in our life right now?

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