



# GOOD NEWS GUIDE

“THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE”

March, 2021

## Loving Others

One of [the Pharisees], an expert in the law, tested him with this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:35-40)

Then Jesus gave us the parable of the Good Samaritan, to show that every other human being is our neighbor, whom we ordered to love.

The New Testament gives us the following admonitions about loving others, and several others as well:



“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” ... “This is my command: Love each other.” (John 15:12,17)

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Romans 13:8-9)

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. (1 Peter 4:8)

Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. (1 John 2:10-11)

So we can be absolutely sure that God intends for us to love each other; not just our family members, but all other people.

What does this mean?

The first thing to realize is that the Bible is not talking about our feelings. Love is not about feelings. It's about actions. We love others by doing what is best for them, what blesses them, whether we feel loving toward them or not. In fact, it is when others are least lovable that we should exert ourselves to act in love toward them. Jesus said, “As you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

Love God.  
Love your  
Neighbor.

If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.” (Luke 6:31-33) As followers of Jesus, we need to act like Jesus.

Let's look at the central message of the Bible's great “love chapter,” 1 Corinthians 13.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

Do you see from Paul's teaching that love is the exact opposite of selfishness?

Self is not patient. Self says, “I want what I want when I want it.” Self wants to blast whatever or whoever makes it wait. But love is patient, especially with those who make us wait because they don't perform as well as we think they should.

Self is not kind, either. Self can be kind when kindness doesn't take any extra effort, but it never goes out of its way to encourage or help someone. Love finds ways to make someone's day a little more pleasant, or burden a little lighter.

Self is often envious of those who have more money or more talent or better looks. Love is glad

when another person is blessed. Self is a taker; Love is a giver.

Self is proud, and likes to strut when people admire or applaud. Love is humble and gives God the credit for every accomplishment.

One of the worst things that self does is to try to build itself up by putting others down. Love always tries to lift others up. Paul wrote, *“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. (Philippians 2:3)*

Self gets angry and plots revenge. Have you heard people say, “I don’t get mad; I get even”? Even when it is said jokingly, it is wrong. What it means is, when someone makes me angry, I will get even with that person. Love is concerned with making situations and relationships better, not worse. Wrong behavior should be corrected, of course; but there are good ways and bad ways of going about it. Love is about forgiving injuries, defusing situations, reconciling relationships, always trying to make peace, rather than war.

Forgiveness. What a critically important thing forgiveness is, for three reasons. First, because God tells us to do it. After teaching His disciples the Lord’s Prayer pattern, which asks God to *“forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us,”* Jesus went on to say, *“For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (Matthew 6:14-15)*

The second reason that forgiveness is important is that it is a necessary step toward reconciliation, the restoration or improvement of the relationship that has been damaged. Jesus also taught this: *“If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” (Matthew 5:23-24)*

Finally, you should realize that unforgiveness, hanging onto anger about whatever real or imagined injuries you have suffered, is bad for you. It is poison, both for your soul and your body. It can literally make you sick.

While I’m on the subject, it’s important to forgive yourself as well. Have you done something you regret, and wish you had never done? I have; probably everybody has. Repent of it; commit to

never do it again; forgive yourself; and move on. We learn from our mistakes. Or we should.

Self makes excuses, blames others, or tells lies in order to avoid the consequences for doing something wrong. Love, on the other hand, thinks being honest, truthful, and responsible is the way to behave. And love does not *despise God’s discipline* when it is deserved. (Proverbs 3:11)

Self is always willing to sacrifice others in order to save itself; self is suspicious and distrustful, expecting selfishness from others. Self is pessimistic, and quick to abandon a worthwhile work that proves difficult. But love *“always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”* As verse 8 says, *“Love never fails.”*

How does one become a person who loves others, the way God wants us to do? The answer is straightforward: you do the loving things, and keep doing them until they become habitual. Along the way you may have to break some bad habits—for example, if you are in the habit of being hot tempered, you bite off the sharp words you usually say, and teach yourself to become patient. You keep doing the loving things until you become a loving person.

Of course you can’t do this without help, so you ask the Holy Spirit to guide you, to help you get it right, and give you correction when you get it wrong. And He will, if you’re serious about it.

And you will bless others, bless yourself, and bless God by becoming more and more like your Savior, Jesus. Together with Paul, I’m sure that God, *“who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”* (Philippians 1:6)

Love *“always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”*

Blessings and Peace —

*Brother Roland*

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## Apples

(Author unknown)

A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Chicago. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner. In their rush to catch the plane home and with tickets and briefcases, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table which held a display of apples. Apples flew everywhere. Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly-missed boarding ...

ALL BUT ONE!!! He paused, took a deep breath, got in touch with his feelings and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned.

He told his buddies to go on without him, waved good-bye, asked one of them to call his wife when they arrived at their home destination and explain that he was taking a later flight. Then he returned to the place in the terminal where the apples were all over the terminal floor.

He was glad he did. The 16-year-old girl was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her; no one stopping and no one to care for her plight.

The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them back on the table and helped organize her display. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised; these he set aside in another basket.

When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take this \$50 for the damage we did. Are you okay?" She nodded through her tears. He continued on with, "I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly."

As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "Mister...?" He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, "Are you Jesus?"

He stopped in mid-stride .... and he thought for a moment ... He gently went back and said, "No, I am nothing like Jesus - He is good, kind, caring, loving, and would never have bumped into your display in the first place."

The girl gently nodded: "I only asked because I prayed for Jesus to help me gather the apples. He sent you to help me, Thank you for hearing Jesus, Mister."

As he slowly he made his way to catch the later flight with that question burning and bouncing about in his soul: "Are you Jesus?"

Do people mistake you for Jesus?

That's our destiny, is it not? To be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference as we live and interact with a world that is blind to His love, life and grace.

If we claim to know Him, we should live, walk and act as He would. Knowing Him is more than simply quoting scripture and going to church. It's actually living the Word as life unfolds day to day

You are the apple of His eye even though you, too, have been bruised by a fall. He stopped what He was doing and picked up you and me on a hill called Calvary and paid in full for our damaged fruit.

Sometimes we just take things for granted, when we really need to be sharing what we know....Thanks for caring, and choosing to make a difference in one person's life today.

The nicest place to be is in someone's thoughts, the safest place to be is in someone's prayers, and the very best place to be is ... in the hands of God



# Loving Others

Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you." And we are able to do that, if we will let His love in us, by the power of the Holy Spirit, govern our actions toward other people. It's something we all need to develop and work on until it just comes naturally. Enjoy the puzzle.

## Puzzle:

L R V D T F G T L V O I F J V B R T X S U L P L A B V W G H R  
M N K K F N H F W U E N P L Z K N A K D Y X B U Z U I H E R X  
V Y H G I F E F G L F G D Q D E H F U L E L T P B Q E O E G E  
C Y D T Q P V C T E L H A H L O X T U L A N O S R E P D L N V  
E C F E H E I S L U V X T O O B H F W L E O A X E J N M F I T  
V I Q W W Y P B F L Y I V I L I T L D U E A C U K E I P Y R Y  
L U Q G X P A P F C E E T U A C M R A W T E C I T Q M M U U T  
Z N U J J L L E V T N T W R E F A T C C A X O H R V H T B S T  
K Y N G I E D C C E A X A P O D J X W A R Z M D N T H C N S X  
G L Z A H S Z K B I A V S N G P Z W D G E S M Z W F U E H A Z  
Z E V I T N E T T A M E U N O Z P B D A D A O O U M Q C X E O  
D A S J H T D E A U R F I O R I X U K V I I D L O H N D F R V  
L N C E G W X R E P N T A A R N S H S E S G A I S B D L F J V  
Q U I G H S C X L J F S C H O E K S D E N O T C A R I N G U L  
T A F K N P A E F I Q S E O K Y B Q A D O Z I N I X E D R A X  
B B H E B I A C L F K Y T L M M T L B P C G N E E D V L C F A  
C G S G C S V P S G C M I R F M D H G P M C G J N I I I I E E  
L N C M A A U I Q R F P H H E I I V O W J O Y F U L T N S H C  
C I N N H J E D G R G A J F I N S T H U A N C M K I A A Q B L  
H T T N R J G P I E W T J J I E G H T F G X A E R H R D P L F  
E R T B Y P Q E N I A H S B X Z J T F E M H B C K I E A A Z N  
X O M Z Q I N E F M R E O I E A Q E H A D A T H W T P Y T J V  
G F A I D D R X O A R T P K K L C Q G E O O D F O A O K W R W  
R M S U L O L D R G N I D N A T S R E D N U T V U L O R I D V  
L O O Y U H Y U G L E C Z F I E U G D P C I E M R L C X B W G  
D C F S J O L A I J W X C O C L H G E D I D N B L E S S I N G  
K R A H Z N P Q V Z Y B N Z L B P P C N K H H G O P R D X W M  
Z O M D L E D W I X C A F J V M D B A W T V A D H E A L I N G  
I M Y B A S P P N K T C U Z E U X O W R R L C V R H J I R F S  
H E B C S T N T G E P A H V P H A O N E T A E A U M D R V W M

## Words:

ACCOMMODATING  
AFFECTIONATE  
ATTENTIVE  
AVAILABLE  
BENEVOLENT  
BLESSING  
CARING  
COMFORTING  
COMMITTED  
COMPASSIONATE  
CONSIDERATE

COOPERATIVE  
DEVOTED  
FAITHFUL  
FORGIVING  
FRIENDLY  
GENEROUS  
GENTLE  
GIVING  
HEALING  
HELPFUL  
HONEST

HUMBLE  
JOYFUL  
KIND  
LIFTING  
LOYAL  
NOTCRITICAL  
PATIENT  
PEACEFUL  
PERSONAL  
PLEASANT  
REASSURING

RESPECTFUL  
STRENGTHENING  
SUPPORTIVE  
SYMPATHETIC  
TENDER  
THOUGHTFUL  
TRUTHFUL  
UNDERSTANDING  
UNSELFISH  
UPLIFTING  
WARM