

TRUE LOVE **(John 13:34-35)**

I. True love is an attitude.

- A. Attitude is defined as: “manner, disposition, feeling, position, etc., with regard to a person or thing; tendency or orientation, especially of the mind.”
 - 1. We are to think in a loving way toward others.
 - 2. It is how we feel towards others.
- B. Notice that the definition ends with “especially of the mind.”
 - 1. The heart, the biblical mind, is the starting point of all that we do.
 - 2. “As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.”
- C. Our mindset has to be one of love for God, for our families, our brethren and our fellow man.
 - 1. It is an attitude that permeates every aspect of our lives.
 - 2. There is no one we are allowed to not love.
 - 3. Since such is the case, it has to become a way of life and it won't become such if it is not a constant attitude for us.
- D. Love is the motivating factor for all that we do.
 - 1. If we love God, we will keep His commandments.
 - 2. It can't be faked in God's eyes (1 Peter 1:22).
 - 3. God will know if our love is real.
- E. Love has to be what we are because we want to be like God (1 John 4:8).
 - 1. God loves all mankind (John 3:16).
 - 2. We must love all mankind as well and it starts with our minds with love being an attitude.

II. True love is an action.

- A. We can say we love someone all day long, but love is a verb.
 - 1. “Love the brotherhood” we are told by Peter (1 Peter 2:17).
 - 2. Love is a verb in that sentence.
 - 3. Love is an action.
 - 4. We show people that we love them by the way we act towards them.
- B. We know God loves us because of what He has done for us (1 John 3:16).
 - 1. He has shown us His love.
 - 2. There is no denying the fact that God loves us when we look at what He has done for us.
 - 3. There is no greater love that could be shown towards us.
- C. Love is an action word to God.
 - 1. James talked about a brother or sister in need and one says words to that person but does nothing for them.
 - 2. He said they have no faith.
 - 3. John equates it with not having love (1 John 3:17).
 - 4. If we don't have love, we don't know God (1 John 4:8).
 - 5. If we don't know God, we can't have eternal life (John 17:3).
- D. We shouldn't owe people anything except love (Romans 13:8).

- E. Notice what Paul says in verse 10 of that chapter.
 1. Love "worketh."
 2. Love is a work, it is an effort.
- F. Love causes us to serve others (Galatians 5:13).
 1. Love is seen as well as told.
 2. If it is only told, then it is not true love.
- G. When we truly love someone, we are going to act in their best interest.
 1. We don't love people if we allow them to stay in sin and say nothing to them.
 2. We don't love people if they are lost and we don't try to teach them the gospel.
 3. We don't love someone if he is hurting himself and we say nothing and do nothing.
- H. C.S. Lewis wrote, "Do not waste your time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbor act as if you did. As soon as we do this, we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less."
- I. There is nothing selfish about love.
 1. True, biblical love seeks the highest good of someone else despite what it may cost us.
 2. God modeled this love for us by giving of His Son.
 3. Jesus modeled this love by giving Himself.

III. **True love is an absolute.**

- A. The word "absolute" is defined as: " complete; perfect: free from restriction or limitation; not limited in any way.
 1. When one speaks of absolutes, there is the idea of no room for anything else.
 2. If I were to say, that is an absolute lie, I would be saying there is absolutely not truth whatsoever in what was said.
- B. When it comes to true love, there is no room for anything less in the life of a Christian.
- C. By loving others truly, we show the world we belong to Jesus (John 13:34-35).
- D. By keeping His commandments, we show we love God.
 1. This is an absolute in the life of a Christian.
 2. We can't love God part of the time and truly love God.
- E. We have no choice in the matter.
 1. As mentioned, we owe no man anything but love.
 2. We are commanded to love the brotherhood.
 3. We are commanded to love our neighbor as ourselves.
 4. We are commanded to love one another with a pure heart fervently.
 5. We are commanded to love our spouse as ourself.
 6. We are commanded to love our enemies (Luke 6:27).
- F. These are all absolutes.

1. There is no wiggle room in any of them.
 2. There is no getting around it.
- G. We are to seek the highest good of all.
1. This is love.
 2. It is hard and it is an effort.
 3. We fall short at times.
 4. When we do, if we love God, we'll repent and make amends to the best of our abilities, and that shows love for God.