

## **Love One Another Fervently with a Pure Heart** **1 Peter 1:22–25 (NKJV)**

<sup>22</sup> Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,<sup>23</sup> having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,<sup>24</sup> because “*All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away,*”<sup>25</sup> But the word of the LORD endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

There is in this passage but one command.

All else in this passage conditions and gives reason for us to obey that one command.

This phrase is often repeated in the New Testament.

John uses it the most. 4 times in his gospel and 6 times in the epistles.

Paul uses it twice, once in Romans and in 1 Thessalonians.

Peter uses it only once and that is in our text.

But as we will see Peter uses two modifiers to describe this love that we are to have one for the other.

Also Peter sets this command in a nest of explanations that describe how we were brought to have this special love for one another as Christians.

### I. Love one another fervently with a pure heart

#### A. Love One Another

1. Of the 13 times this phrase “love one another” is found in your red letter versions 4 of them are in red.
2. Jesus told the disciple that he gave them a new commandment, that they love one another.
3. As a matter of fact He said that we should love one another in the same way that He loved us.
  - a. John 13:34 (NKJV)
    - (1) 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.
  - b. Now that is a high calling, a grand task for any of us.
  - c. There is little doubt that the other nine times in the scriptures that this phrase is found each refer back to the commandment of Jesus.

- d. Now when I was a kid, if one of my brothers or sisters told me to do something my response was optional.
- e. But if they said dad said to do such and such that was a different story.

B. Fervently

- 1. It is impossible to love the truth and hate the brethren. The Spirit of God produces the “fruit of the Spirit” in our lives, and the first of these is love (Gal. 5:22–23). If we are filled with the Word of God (Col. 3:16ff) and the Spirit of God (Eph. 5:18ff), we will manifest the love of God in our daily experiences. *Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 400.*

2.

C. With a pure heart

- 1. Love with a pure heart does not seek its own but the beloved’s.
- 2. It is not for us that we love but for those that we love.
- 3. Much of what is called love is just the opposite.
  - a. It is affections expressed to control or manipulate the other person.
  - b. Peter forbids such actions.
  - c. We are to love as we are loved by God, without regard to what we might receive in return.

II. Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit.

A. This is the motivating cause for this God like love.

- 1. Our souls, our very being has been purified by that great cleanser of souls, the truth, the Word of God.
- 2. 1 John 3:3 (NKJV)
  - a. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

B. The operator in all this is not our intellect or our wisdom but the Spirit of God.

- 1. Left to our own resources we would never be able to love anyone.
- 2. Left to our own selves we would be interested in only our welfare and not of others.
- 3. Can the leopard change its spots? The answer is no.
  - a. Jeremiah 13:23 (NKJV)

- (1) 23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.
4. In conjunction with divine truth the Holy Spirit changes us and gives us the ability to love the brethren fervently with a pure heart.
- C. Having purified your soul through obeying the truth.
1. The Holy Spirit uses the word of God to operate this work of grace in us.
  2. The word truth means the word of God.
  3. It means the gospel.
  4. This is referred to as “obeying the truth”
    - a. When the Holy Spirit does His work in us there is a discernable result.
    - b. It is that there is an actual purity that takes place.
    - c. We are not only declared holy when we are saved, but we literally become more holy.
    - d. We never become perfect this side of eternity but our lives become more and more like Jesus.
    - e. Obedience is the evidence that we have truly met Him and been changed by Him. Eternal life has observable characteristics.  
*Robert James Dr. Utley, The Gospel according to Peter: Mark and I & II Peter, vol. Volume 2, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International, 2000), 224.*
- D. You cannot be saved, you cannot be born again apart from the Word of God. This Book is the miracle that is in the world today. Although I believe this, I never cease to marvel at the letters I receive from folk who tell me that they have been born again and their lives have been transformed from listening to my Bible-teaching radio broadcast. It is wonderful, but I don’t understand how it happens; I only know that it is the result of the Word of God which liveth and abideth for ever. J. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible Commentary: The Epistles (1 Peter)*, electronic ed., vol. 54 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991), 42.
- E. . . . it means that Christians are remade by the entry into them of the seed of the word; and the picture is that of the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:1–9).  
*William Barclay, The Letters of James and Peter, 3rd ed. fully rev. and updated., The New Daily Study Bible (Louisville, KY; London: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003), 218.*
- F. However we take it, the meaning is that Christians are remade. Because they are

reborn, the life of God is in them. The great characteristic of the life of God is love, and so Christians must show that divine love for all people. *William Barclay, The Letters of James and Peter, 3rd ed. fully rev. and updated., The New Daily Study Bible (Louisville, KY; London: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003), 218.*

III. In sincere love of the brethren.

A. Peter used two different words for love: philadelphia, which is “brotherly love,” and agape, which is godlike sacrificial love. It is important that we share both kinds of love. We share brotherly love because we are brothers and sisters in Christ and have likenesses. We share agape love because we belong to God and therefore can overlook differences. *Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 400.*

B. Sincere:

1. Psalm 55:21 (NKJV)

a. 21 The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, But war was in his heart; His words were softer than oil, Yet they were drawn swords.

2. Fervent love, and this is an athletic term that means “striving with all of one’s energy.” Love is something we have to work at, just as an Olympic contestant has to work at his particular skills. Christian love is not a feeling; it is a matter of the will. *Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 400.*

If we are to love our neighbor and even love our enemy, we should surely love the other children of God.

I am afraid that some look for reasons to not love other saints.

Our nation is divided more now than ever before.

Jesus is the only answer and love is the only way.

We need to reject and condemn those who work to divide our nation but especially God’s people.

It cost Jesus to love us, it cost Him dearly.

What price are we willing to pay to show our love for one another?

John 13:34 (NKJV)

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

John 15:12 (NKJV)

12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

John 15:17 (NKJV)

17 These things I command you, that you love one another.

Romans 13:8 (NKJV)

8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

1 Thessalonians 4:9 (NKJV)

9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

1 Peter 1:22 (NKJV)

22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

1 John 3:11 (NKJV)

11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,

1 John 3:23 (NKJV)

23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

1 John 4:7 (NKJV)

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:11–12 (NKJV)

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

2 John 5 (NKJV)

5 And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another.