

LOVE IS FROM THE BEGINNING

1 JOHN 2:7

INTRODUCTION:

1. **1 John 2.7-10:** From the beginning, we have been commanded to love one another. (1 John 3.11; 2 John 5)
2. Knowing the command, we are encouraged to work on our relationships with one another.

I. WHAT DOES LOVE DO?

- A. Love identifies us.
 1. **John 13.34,35:** *“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*
 2. We are not identified as disciples doctrinally, but by love.
- B. Love keeps us from hurting others.
 1. **Romans 13.8:** *“Love has fulfilled the law.”* How?
 2. **Romans 13.9,10:** *“Love does not harm”*
- C. Love tempers my convictions.
 1. **1 Corinthians 16.13:** We are to have convictions.
 2. **1 Corinthians 16.14:** Convictions balanced by love.
- D. Love creates a boundary.
 1. **Romans 5.1,2:** *“Walk in love”*
 2. Life is to be lived within the boundary of love.
- E. Love binds us together.
 1. **Colossians 3.12,13:** We wear certain qualities.
 2. **Colossians 3.14:** *“love, which is the bond of perfection.”*

II. WHO DO I NEED TO LOVE?

- A. Those who mistreat me. (Luke 6.27-29; cf. Ex. 15.9)
- B. Those who make mistakes. (2 Cor. 2.5-8)
- C. Those who are in our family. (Eph. 5.25; Titus 2.4)
- D. Those who are different. (James 2.8,9)

CONCLUSION: We are people who serve a God of love and follow the One who taught us to love from the beginning.

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

June 28, 2026

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM

“Husbands, Love Your Wives”

In the above reference, the apostle Paul does not offer a suggestion, but a command (Eph. 5.25). Love is not an emotional feeling, but a mental decision to do what is good for another. As it applies to marriage, husbands are commanded to always act in the best interest of their wives.

In every area of life, whether it be financial, emotional, intellectually, or spiritual, husbands are not to act in self-interest, concerned only with what will please them (Phil. 2.3). Instead the welfare of their family is always in mind.

This shows the difference between leadership and dictatorship. A husband who rules by tyranny is only concerned about himself and expects his wife to serve him. In contrast, a husband who rules by leadership seeks to understand the needs of his family and actively provides for them. He provides for his family’s material needs and emotional needs by putting food on the table (1 Tim. 5.8), and dwelling with them in understanding (1 Pet. 3.7).

Most importantly, the husband serves as a good leader when he leads his family in the ways of God. He establishes priorities for the family in terms of Bible classes, worship services, and contributions. He sets the example of love, faith, purity, and the like. Indeed, when a husband loves his wife, and when wives submit to the leadership of their husbands, the whole household benefits. And when the household benefits, so does society.

CLP

JESUS: COMMANDER IN CHIEF

Acts 12:11

INTRODUCTION:

1. Acts tells us about Jesus from those who knew Him.
2. From Acts 8, we see a transition as the gospel is spread beyond Israel and is preached to the ends of the earth.
3. In Acts 12, our attention is turned to Peter while in prison.

I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- A. There is a political background.
 1. **Acts 12.1,2:** *“Now about that time, Herod the King...”*
 2. **Acts 12.3:** Herod sought political favor.
 3. **Acts 12.4:** Peter was arrested and imprisoned.
- B. There is a religious background.
 1. The disciples had been persecuted by Judaizers.
 2. **Acts 12.5:** *“constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.”* God was their only recourse.

II. THE MIRACULOUS ESCAPE

- A. An angelic intervention.
 1. This was an *“angel of the Lord”* (Acts 12.7,11)
 2. **Acts 12.6:** Peter was well secured.
 3. **Acts 12.7-9:** Peter thought he was seeing a vision.
 4. **Acts 12.10:** Peter finally figured it out.
- B. What did Jesus mean to Peter?
 1. **Acts 12.11:** *“Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel and has delivered me”*
 2. To Peter, Jesus was Commander in Chief to His angels.

III. WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN TO YOU?

- A. How did the angels interact with Jesus?
 1. Involved in His birth. (Matt. 1.21; Luke 2.11)
 2. Involved in His life. (Matt. 2.13; 4.11; Luke 22.43)
 3. Involved after His death. (Matt. 28.5,6; 25.31,32)
- B. How does Jesus interact with His angels?
 1. **Acts 12.11:** *“the Lord has sent His angel”*
 2. **1 Peter 3.22:** *“angels...made subject to Him.”*
 3. **Hebrews 1.14:** Angels are *“sent forth to minister...”*

CONCLUSION: Being a Christian is having Jesus help us.

Strange Worship

Have you ever wondered if God accepts every act of worship we offer? We often assume that as long as we are sincere, the Lord is pleased. But what happens when our sincerity ignores God's strict instructions? Consider the example of Nadab and Abihu in Leviticus 10. These two newly ordained priests approached the tabernacle, but their careless actions resulted in immediate judgment (Lev. 10.1-3).

First, they offered profane fire. The text tells us they took their censers, put fire in them, and offered *“profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them”* (Lev. 10.1). The word translated as “profane” or “strange” is the Hebrew word “zuwr,” which means “unauthorized” or “alien.” They substituted God’s command with their own preferred source. What does this mean for us today? When we assemble, we must rely entirely on what scripture authorizes rather than our own creative additions (2 John 1.9). If we introduce modern innovations into our worship simply because they feel good, we step outside His will. Sincerity never replaces obedience.

Second, they did not regard God as holy. Following their sudden death, Moses reminded Aaron of God’s decree: *“By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy”* (Lev. 10.3). To treat God as holy is to set Him apart with absolute and uncompromising reverence. Nadab and Abihu treated the sacred act of worship as something common or casual. Do you casually dismiss God's commands when they become inconvenient? When we rush through our prayers, neglect the assembly, or treat the Lord's Supper as a common meal, we fail to treat God with the awe He deserves (1 Cor. 11.27-29).

Third, they did not glorify God before the people. In the second half of that same decree, the Lord stated, *“And before all the people I must be glorified”* (Lev. 10.3). Because they were leaders, their blatant disregard for the rules misrepresented God to the entire Israelite camp. They made the moment about their own impulsive actions rather than the majesty of God. Are you tempted to make your religious life a performance to be seen by others? Whether it is how we sing, how we serve, or how we speak to our neighbors, our daily lives must point people toward heaven (Matt. 5.16). We are called to reflect His light. True worship always elevates the Father.

What worship does God accept? He accepts those who humbly submit to His word, respect His holiness, and seek His glory. We must examine our hearts so we never offer strange fire. CLP