

**Add to Your Faith**  
**Love**  
**I John 4:17-5:3**

Introduction:

In **II Pet. 5:7**, we are told to add love to our faith. The kind of love here is different from brotherly love. This is the “agape” type of love. It is that sacrificial love that we should have for each other and for God. This is the kind of love that God has for us. Today, we will notice why having this kind of love is important; what having this kind of love for God causes us to do; and what this kind of love caused God to do for us.

**I. The importance of love**

- A. We are commanded to love God.
  - 1. From the beginning, the children of Israel were commanded to love God.
    - a. **Deut. 6:5** - You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.
    - b. **Deut. 10:12-13** - And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, { 13 } and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?
    - c. **Deut. 11:1** - Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always.
  - 2. Today, we are also commanded to love God.
    - a. Jesus Himself teaches us to love God.
    - b. **Mt. 22:37** - Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”
  - 3. We should have a strong desire to love God based on what He has done for us, which we will look at later.
- B. God commands us to not only love Him, but also the other children of God.
  - 1. **I Jn. 4:20-5:1**
  - 2. **John 13:34-35** - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. {35} By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.
  - 3. **Rom. 13:8-10** - Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. {9} For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." {10} Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
- C. Notice other reasons that we need to have love for God and others.

1. **I Cor. 13:2** - And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.
2. **Col. 3:14** - But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.
3. **I Pet. 4:8** - And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

## II. Because of our love for God we obey Him.

- A. There comes a time when we do things for God out of love and not out of fear.
  1. Fear can be a motivation for us to do something.
    - a. A young child will often do things because they are afraid of what their parents are going to do to them if they do not.
      - 1) Ex.: Clean room, do homework, etc.
      - 2) Eventually, a child will do things for their parents because of love, not fear.
    - b. **II Cor. 5:11** - Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.
  2. However, there comes a time in which we must do things for God out of love, not fear.
  3. **I Jn. 4:17-18**
- B. We demonstrate our love for God by being obedient to Him.
  1. **I Jn. 5:2-3**
  2. **John 14:15** - If you love Me, keep My commandments.
  3. **John 14:23-24** - Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. {24} He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me."
  4. **John 14:21** - He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.
- C. If we love God...
  1. We will put Him first in our lives (**Mt. 6:33**).
  2. We will study His word (**II Tim. 2:15**).
  3. We will teach others about the salvation of God (**Mk. 16:16**).
  4. We will meet with His church at any opportunity we get so that we can be encouraged to live faithfully (**Heb. 10:25**).
  5. If we love God, we will do anything He asks us to do!

### III. We love God because He first loved us.

- A. We can know what love is because God loved us first.
  - 1. I Jn 4:16
  - 2. I Jn. 4:19
- B. We know that God loves us because of what He did on the cross.
  - 1. I Jn 3:16
  - 2. Jesus told us what true love is.
    - a. John 3:16 - 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.
    - b. John 15:12-13 - This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. { 13 } Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.
    - c. Jesus **told** us what true love is.
  - 3. Then Jesus showed us what true is.
    - a. Jesus died on that cross for us
    - b. Rom. 5:5-8
    - c. On that cross, Jesus **showed** us what true love is.
  - 4. It is that same kind of sacrificial love that we should have for God and each other.
- C. The greatest part about this love is that there is nothing that can separate us from His love.
  - 1. Rom. 8:32, 35-39

### Conclusion:

We have a great reward for following God. That reward is to one day live with Him in heaven. It is a reward that we will not want to miss.

Today, do you love God? Are you willing to obey His commandments? If you are, then you can have the salvation that He promises us.