1Thess #59

God brings love into this world.

Let us open back up today in 1Thessalonians chapter three. We will close out chapter three and at the same time put a cap on our study of virtue love.

The example of Hosea and Gomer was a great analogy and picture of not only how GOD loves us, but how we can go out into hostile situations and apply this Godly love. Applying this love to resolve many of the challenges that relationships throw at us.

It doesn’t matter if it is marriage, friendships or family. Even our co-workers we have to deal with relationships on a consistent basis.

Human beings are flawed creatures and minus the power of Christ in their life, they will fail you and hurt you from time to time – even mature Bels fail one another occasionally.

The importance of this type of love that truly, only God can grace us with, can- not be magnified enough.

Most problems within families, marriages, social and political circles would evaporate if this love was ever-present among all of us.

/Impersonal, unconditional Godly love does not seek victory or punishment it simply allows God’s grace to lead the way. It is never self-centered nor is it ever angry or vindictive. It is focused on God’s plan and God’s grace. It is Christ-centered, reflecting the person of Jesus Christ during HIS earthly ministry. Because it is Christ-centered, it is dependent upon the mind of Christ for all answers, solutions and goals. \

1Thes 3:11 Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you;

What the Apostle Paul is saying is that GOD is in control, TLJC is his guide.

The Apostle Paul understood and lived in this virtue love.

He had failure and success along the way but the majority of the time Paul lived in Virtue LOVE!

[1Th 3:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/12/s_1114012) and may the Lord cause you to increase and overflow in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also *do* for you;

It is the LORD who causes us to overflow in this love – AGAPE’ it is written as a noun here.

It is something we can achieve because it was given to us by GOD.

AGAPOT-O is the verb meaning the action or application of this love.

You first have to have it to apply it!

/[1Th 3:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/13/s_1114013) so **that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness** before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.\

It is Christ who can establish your heart, it is Christ who can give you this love so that you can then apply it in your life.

/Bels can not achieve this love and establish a heart (soul) that reflects godliness away from Bible doctrine. Music ministry, prayer and fellowship do not establish spiritual strength in your soul. Music ministry, prayer and fellowship are dependent upon substance in the soul. The WORD (mind of Christ) is what establishes a godly soul which is rich with virtue love.\

Your prayer, music ministry or fellowship will be real and lasting when they are responding to the doctrine in your soul.

At the moment of salvation every Believer passes the point of propitiation related to the justice system of God.

They have adjusted to God’s justice system, which simply means - you acknowledge you are a sinner in need of a savior and TLJC is the only ONE!

At that moment you passed through the justice system on the merits of Christ, you will never to be judged for sins.

Because the person and work of Christ were beyond satisfactory within the divine justice system of GOD.

Now as a Bel - you placed yourself under maximum divine love.

The principle is found in relationship to that love in 1 John 2:2.

/Positional truth further guarantees that God the Father will love every Bel with the same amount of love which He possesses for Jesus Christ —

1Jhn 2:2 and **He Himself is the propitiation for our sins**; and not for ours only, but also **for *the sins of* the whole world**. \

God the Father loves the whole world but it became personal love at the moment of salvation.

HE looks upon a Bel as having the righteousness of HIS SON TLJC.

Both personal love and impersonal, unconditional love are written in the NT as either a noun meaning something you have.

Or as a verb speaking to an action – which means, application.

God gives us love in HIS grace plan.

But like all things given in God’s grace plan, we need to not only take our free will and accept it, we have to learn to use it by knowledge first.

Knowledge learned will turn into wisdom which will be applicable.

/1Jhn 3:1 **See how great a love the Father has given us**, that we would be called children of God; and *in fact* we are. For this reason the world does not know us: because it did not know Him.

*Agape’ –* (noun) something God gives us in HIS grace plan. Everything God gives us needs to be recognized and accepted for it to begin to become valuable in the temporal walk.\

Most of what is given in God’s grace plan has to be accepted and learned before it becomes useful.

Even your salvation - if you do not understand it and study it, that will be something you never fully understand enough to grow into it.

During this temporal walk you will never live comfortably in your eternal security…never fully understanding who you are in Christ.

 REPEAT

/[1Jo 3:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1jo/3/2/s_1162002) Beloved, **now we are children of God,** and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, **we will be like Him,** because we will see Him just as He is.

This is written in a present tense, we have knowledge that we are being given and keep gaining, to reveal more of who we truly are in CHRIST!\

Every day we can become more familiar with the mind of Christ and have more revealed – or dive deeper into Satan’s counterfeit system.

The plan of God is designed for growth – that we become more Christ-like over time. But God will not force you to grow up spiritually.

God will not force any of HIS grace gifts to be used – we have to take responsibility for our own growth.

/Jhn 3:30 “He must increase, but I must decrease.

John the Baptist told this to the legalistic leaders who wanted to challenge the authority of Jesus. They wanted to divide John the Baptist and Jesus.\

This was said before John the Baptist was put into prison.

In fact, this portion of John chapter 3 is one of the rare times we can read all the Apostles were baptizing in water together and Jesus was with them.

It insinuates they were doing the baptizing and Jesus was with them.

The problem most Christians have, is they talk about love and they show flashes of virtue love. But they never actually have this love dwelling and active habitually in their life.

This love is learned over time. Because it is not dependent upon emotions…it is a thinking love.

/Mat 5:44 “But I say to you, **loveyour enemies** and pray for those who persecute you,

This is an action an application – *agapaō,* it is not an emotional outburst or a wave of emotion that overtakes you.\

This is written in a verb form which means it is an application.

You can not apply something you do not know.

Just like a mechanic who is fixing your carburetor - there has to be the right tools and also the knowledge on how to fix that carburetor.

The action or application has to be backed up by the knowledge, the right thing done in the right way.

 REPEAT

/Luk 6:32 “**If you lovethose who loveyou**, what credit is *that* to you? For **even sinners love**those who lovethem.

This is written as a verb as well – *agapaō,* because anyone (Bel or Unbel) can have flashes of this love in the right reciprocal circumstances. \

Satan’s counterfeits and our OSN has abilities to show flashes of God’s love or weak imitations of God’s grace plan.

Yet it has no strength or divine value behind it - nor does it have the ability to stand the test of time.

True virtue love has the ability to stand up under pressure, it will stand up under adversity and unjust treatment.

The example of Hosea and Gomer is one of the strongest examples for Bels to learn to apply.

There are 3 categories of love that all Bels should understand.

These are the three most important categories of love. They cause us the most confusion when we do not have this virtue love dwelling in or soul.

/As far as man is concerned category #1 is love toward God. (2 other categories are only as strong as this love is!)

Category #2 is love for a member of the opposite sex.

Category #3 is friendship.

All of these categories are limited. \

Go over to Galatians chapter five RF.

Category #1 is limited to the Trinity.

It begins with virtue love as we first begin to understand God and then deeper personal love will open up.

Many times, a new Bel has an emotional response to being born again and saved – being forgiven and having God’s grace brings forth an emotional response and that is normal.

It is very similar to a new relationship when attraction is the first response.

 REPEAT

It is only after a period of time of getting to know someone – knowledge and insight about that person, do you get to the deeper true love.

/Category #2 is limited to one person of the opposite sex. Category two should have both personal and Impersonal, unconditional love. Yet it is impersonal, unconditional love that has to be the foundation.\

God created this for Christian marriage, it is part of the doctrine of right man and right woman.

Christian marriage based on personal love will be a very weak foundation.

That will need both parties to step up and grow up quickly to gain virtue love for the long run.

/Category #3 is also limited; it will include certain family members and real friends.No one can have dozens of true friends, it is very difficult to have large amounts of true, close friends. It actually is unrealistic to think you are that popular or that close to large groups of people. Even within family members this is limited.\

When it comes to the command to love the brethren (members of the family of God) that is strictly a mental attitude love produced first by the filling of the Spirit and also produced by growth and spiritual maturity.

To love large groups of people…Bel or Unbel, enemy or casual friend, it is strictly a mental attitude, nothing more.

 REPEAT

/Virtue love does not have to have personal love attached to it, not within most causal friendships or the call to love everyone. Personal love is reserved for those who have come into the inner circle of intimacy in your life. Personal love does have restrictions or distinctive guidelines. Personal love can be withheld or removed when infractions have crossed over certain boundaries. \

Those boundaries are between you and God.

God does not expect you to remain intimate or close to someone who has purposely attacked or hurt you.

/Personal love must be encompassed within virtue love of intimate relationships (Cat #1 and Cat #2). Within Category #3 it may vary slightly and also have differing standards or boundaries, because the level of intimacy is not equivalent to Cat #1 & Cat #2. These first two categories were designed for maximum intimacy and maximum protection.\

God is the one who is the author of love. No matter what the world offers or Satan counterfeits… GOD is the author of every aspect of real love.

/Rom 5:5 and hope does not disappoint, **because the love of God has been poured out** within our hearts **through the Holy Spirit** who was given to us.\

Notice the filling power of God the HS is called into action. Love for all Bels is not the same – because all Bels do not grow up toward maturity. All bels do not understand the filling power of God the HS.

/Gal 5:22 But **the fruit of the Spirit is love**, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Impersonal, unconditional love will be the foundation and accelerant for the Fruit of the Spirit for a Bel.\

[Gal 5:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/5/23/s_1096023) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Nothing can stand up to a spiritual mature Bel who has the Fruit of the Spirit active in their life.

All of these other FRUIT attributes will feed off of the Virtue Love in that soul structure.

[Gal 5:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/5/24/s_1096024) Now those who belong to Christ Jesus crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

[Gal 5:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/5/25/s_1096025) If we live by the Spirit, let’s follow the Spirit as well.

The call is to walk in the new nature – the OSN was nailed to the cross. Make the positive decisions to move forward in the two power options of the CA.

[Gal 5:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/gal/5/26/s_1096026) Let’s not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

/This grace gift of Godly Love was given to every Bel to grow into and learn to live in it, which will bring forth problem solving skills. It will bring out a relaxed mental attitude, it will resolve relationship conflicts. It will bring greater peace and stronger faith. Peace and faith that will stand up to adversity and the storms that Satan will throw at every Bel who goes forward in God’s grace plan. \