1Thess #54

The Believer can abound in love.

Open up in 1Thessalonians chapter 3.

1Th 3:9 For what thanks can we give to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice because of you before our God,

The Apostle Paul was genuinely happy about these Greek Bels who had taken the gospel and began spreading it across the land.

[1Th 3:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/10/s_1114010) as we keep praying most earnestly night and day that we may see your faces, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?

Prayer was our recent study and the Apostle Paul and his team of church leaders understood the power of prayer.

Prayer protocol being important for precise, effective prayer.

[1Th 3:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/11/s_1114011) Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you;

/[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;\

[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.

As we close out this chapter the Apostle Paul makes a very profound statement related to spiritual growth, more specifically higher levels of maturity.

/God can not fully establish a Bel’s heart (highest level of maturity) without LOVE dwelling within that soul of the Bel. Godly love is impersonal, unconditional and relies completely on divine power and it is released or activated by the Justice System of God. This must first be directed toward GOD (Trinity) and then it can reach out to others in our periphery.\

By using the term Godly love (virtue), I am saying that the core of this love is only available for the Bel who has grown in God’s plan and achieved a level of soul saturation of BD.

People can imitate this love and have momentary flashes of this love but to live in it speaks, to a Bel who has accepted God’s plan for their life.

This love is the most important love we have and it is a love that is not emotionally based, it is thought based.

 REPEAT

This love comes from the mind of Christ, so it is learned not simply felt.

Most Christians will not go the distance without this love active and dwelling deeply in their soul.

/Rom 5:3 And not only *this,* but we also celebrate in our tribulations, knowing that **tribulation brings about perseverance**; 4 and perseverance, **proven character**; and proven character, **hope**;

The Apostle Paul is teaching endurance from our faith, our justification is on display by how we move forward in the face of adversity.\

Christians fail many times because they have never allowed God’s love the room to gain roots in their soul structure.

/[Rom 5:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/5/5/s_1051005) 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.

This love in the original Greek, is the most predominate one in the NT, used well over 110 times. It is poured out by God the HS. \

Go to the Gospel of Matthew chapter five RF.

Unbels are incapable of this love, they have not agreed with the justice system of God.

There are always counterfeits - but only one true divine love.

This means that this love is Christ-dependent. It is given by God the HS because it is from the nature of Jesus Christ.

/The justice system of God was satisfied by the person and work of Christ and that is what released the love, grace and mercy of God. The Bel is capable of this love because of the righteousness of Christ. When a Bel adjust to the justice of God they open up their Christ-like nature and that is the opportunity to allow that love to grow.\

Because of the Justice System of God acts as the filter for God’s divine plan from eternity past, we are able to have a love that is the greatest weapon and problem-solving device in this lost and dying world.

This love is what separates us from the devil’s world. Bels can be recognized by this love.

/Jhn 13:35 “By this all *people* will know that you are My disciples: **if you have love for one another.”**

*Agape’ –* Impersonal, unconditional love that is God dependent, not flesh dependent.\

In fact, the call for this type of love is what will lead you into a much more personal love as you grow spiritually.

This is the most powerful and foundational love that GOD wants to establish in all of us first.

Jesus Christ had this love for everyone – even Scribes, Sadducees and Pharisees, it comes from a place of thought. Knowledge and love toward GOD first, is how this is established.

/1Jhn 4:20 If someone says, “**I love God,” and *yet* he hates his brother *or sister,* he is a liar**; for the one who does not love his brother *and sister* whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

The Bel who does not have this love operational in their life, has not reached SM. You cannot hold on to negativity toward others and claim to love God.\

MISS-A-O, is the Greek word used for hate. It really was a term for having a spiteful attitude toward another.

It also was occasionally used for the term - to love less than another.

So, the truth of that statement is even those who you have a negative attitude about, could be holding you back from allowing this love to grow.

/[1Jo 4:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1jo/4/21/s_1163021) And **this commandment** (*entolē*)**we have from Him,** that the one who loves God must also love his brother *and sister.*

This is a command or precept related to law. Jesus established this in HIS earthly ministry.\

EN-TOLL-A, was the same term used for the Mosaic law in relation to the Ten Commandments.

If we are walking in our union with Christ we can fulfill this!

Mat 5:43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’

Jesus said this because the legalistic crowd had taken the concept of love your neighbor, as loving anyone you consider a friend.

Religion has many ways that it twists the truth of BD.

/[Mat 5:44](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/5/44/s_934044) “But I say to you, **love your enemies**and pray for those who persecute you,

This is not a call for emotional love and personal love toward those who attack you. This is a call toward impersonal, unconditional love.\

The misconception is what type of love is GOD calling the Bel to apply.

[Mat 5:45](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/5/45/s_934045) so that you may prove yourselves to be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the*  unrighteous.

The Scribes and Pharisees constantly attacked the ministry of TLJC and we can see times Jesus used divine sarcasm to deal with them.

Yet - we never see Jesus allowing them into HIS inner circle, HE tried to teach them and show them compassion but ultimately they would not change.

God’s mercy and love is that everyone has the freedom to live this life how they see fit.

Jesus treated them fairly and did not hate them, yet HE kept them at a distance.

Jesus had virtue love for everyone.

/[Mat 5:46](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/5/46/s_934046) “**For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?** Even the tax collectors, do they not do the same?

The example of how you treat those who mistreat you is an open display of your virtue (Godly) love. \

[Mat 5:47](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/5/47/s_934047) “And if you greet only your brothers *and sisters,* what more are you doing *than others?* Even the Gentiles, do they not do the same?

Unbels do the same.

[Mat 5:48](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/5/48/s_934048) “Therefore you shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

/Impersonal, unconditional (virtue) love is dependent upon the mind of Christ. It treats everyone with compassion and dignity even when they abuse you. It is not dependent upon emotional responses or intimacy, in fact it can operate a great distance away from its target.\

To love an enemy does not mean you befriend that enemy. It means you seek no revenge, nor do you hold onto hatred for past problems or current strife between you and that person.

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/Luk 23:34 But **Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them**; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots, dividing His garments among themselves.

This is the zenith of virtue love! \

Go over to the gospel of John chapter twenty-one.

Jesus Christ is the impeccable one of the universe, we are told to walk in a manner similar to HIS lifestyle.

No one can perfectly walk just like Jesus Christ. Yet, what we can do is walk in the new nature and become more Christ-like in this temporal life.

The misconception about love your enemy, is in relation to what type of love are you told to use.

/Virtue love means we are walking in a manner that is Christ-like and therefore revenge, bitterness, jealousy and implacability never find a home within our soul structure. These emotional sins are slowly pushed outward as we allow Christ to increase and our flesh to decrease. We treat everyone with compassion and dignity because of who Christ is, not based on who we are or how others treat us! \

Now in John chapter 21 we will see the repentance of Peter and how TLJC allows Peter to redeem himself from the 3 times he denied the Lord before the cross.

Jesus already knew how guilty and filled with shame Peter was and HE was about to set him free.

/Jhn 21:15 Now when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “**Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me more than these**?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that **I love You** (*phileō)*.” He said to him, “Tend My lambs.”

Jesus uses Agape’ (virtue) love to explain this to Peter – yet Peter uses personal love.\

All written in a Greek present tense – keep on loving, keep on walking in this love.

PHIL-ETO, is a personal love.

[Jhn 21:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/21/16/s_1018016) He said to him again, a second time, “Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Shepherd My sheep.”

The same scenario plays out as Peter is emotional and wants to proclaim his personal love for the LORD.

Jesus is talking about Agape’ love.

Jesus is attempting to allow Peter to wake up and shake off the failure and apply virtue love, this is a call for spiritual growth.

/[Jhn 21:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/21/17/s_1018017) He said to him the third time, “Simon, *son* of John, **do you love (*phileō*) Me?”** Peter was hurt because He said to him the third time, “**Do you love Me**?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; **You know that I love You**.” Jesus said to him, “Tend My sheep.

All 3 times the word *phileō,* (personal love), is now used. If you want to have lasting personal love you first have to have impersonal, unconditional love.\

What is Jesus calling Peter to do is step up to his calling as an apostle.

The Apostles would have to apply virtue love on a grand scale almost like TLJC did going up to that cross.

/Jhn 21:18 Truly, truly I tell you, when you were younger, you used to put on your belt and walk wherever you wanted; but **when you grow old**, you will stretch out your hands and **someone else will put your belt on you**, and bring *you* where you do not want *to go.*”

There will come a time that Peter will be weak and facing his temporal death. Until then he needed to wake up and move forward in his calling.\

TLJC was telling Peter he was forgiven but what matters is that he was called to maturity, he was called to a higher calling then his past life of a fisherman.

Peter would need to stand in BD, this means understanding virtue love and living in that, so that personal love has a real foundation.

/**Tend to MY lambs** – Establish the early church, feed the gospel to this lost world. Teach the new Bels.

**Shepherd MY sheep** – Organize and establish the teaching of BD for those who want to grow.

**Tend to MY sheep** – Keep teaching and guide the mature ones into the super-grace life. \

Jesus was telling Peter if you truly love ME, think…use BD, grow up and learn to live in Agape’ love first. If you love ME get ready to pick up your cross and follow ME!

This means knowledge that turns into wisdom has to be active in the soul.

Personal love alone will fluctuate between sentimental words and emotions, it has no real foundation without virtue love.

Personal love fails under pressure –

Personal love with a foundation of virtue love has the ability to stand no matter what pressure comes up against it.

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