

Is Love Easy?

If so, Why Would We Need to Pursue it?
(1 Cor 14:1)

James 1:12 / Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

See Also / Jude 21
2 Tim 2:22

1 Thessalonians 5:7-9 (ESV)
For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath...

2 Thessalonians 1:3 / We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

1 Peter 4:8 / Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

Romans 12:9-10
Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

See Also / Phil 4:8, 1 John 2:15,
1 Peter 3:10, 1 Tim 6:11,

The Greatest of the Virtues
(Faith, Hope < Love)

It is Perfect

It Never Ends

8-13

Endures All things

Hopes All things

Believes All things

Bears All things

Rejoices in Truth

Does not rejoice in Wrongdoing

Is Not Resentful

Is Not Irritable

Does not insist on its Own Way

Is Not Rude

Is Not Arrogant

Does Not Boast

Does Not Envy

Kind

Patient

Without it... we are nothing
(Useless)
Irrelevant

2 Peter 3:9 / The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Ephesians 4:32 / Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

See Also / 1 Peter 5:14

1 Peter 2:1-2 / So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—

Galatians 6:14 / But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Titus 1:7 / For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain,

1 Jn 4:10-21 / Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

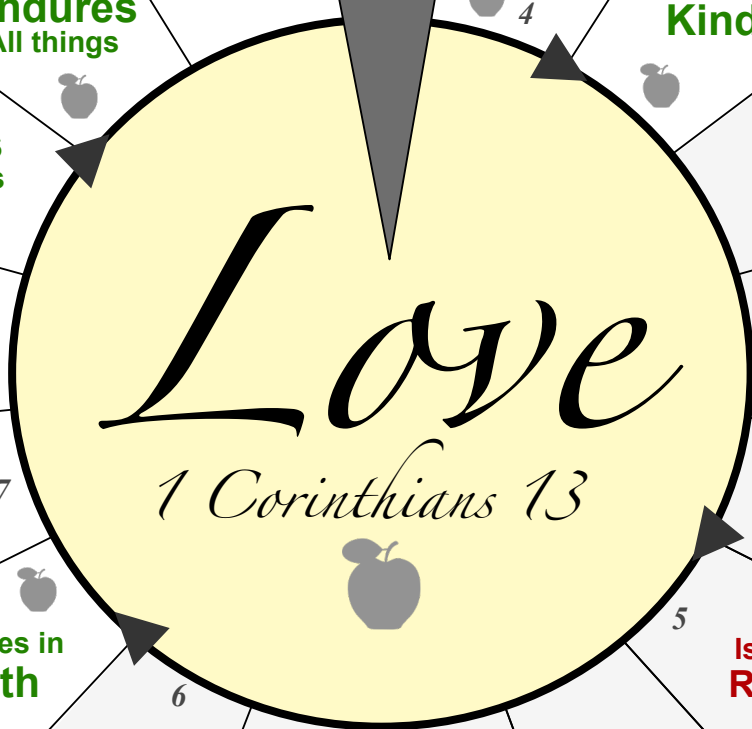
By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his



The Fruit of the Spirit

The Source of Love is the Holy Spirit / Not the Flesh

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control



A Deep Understanding of Love Has Some Necessary Responses...

(1) gives us high aspirations to aim for because God is Love

(2) helps us see that none of this is possible in our own power "in the flesh" but only "through the Spirit"

(3) brings us to the point of confession/repentance of our sin before God, and before each other for regularly (1John 1:9-10) not living up to this high ideal.

Ephesians 5:4 / Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

See Also / 1 Peter 2:17,

1 Corinthians 10:24 / Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.

See Also / Phil 2:2

Ephesians 4:26 / Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger;

Mark 11:25 / And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

Does not count others sins against them / Hold something against

Does not cause others to be angry / to poke / to provoke

Does not devote serious effort to realize one's desire or objective / self

Does not behave improperly

Puffed up, haughty, inflated view of self

Brag, be a windbag, heap praise upon self

To have intense negative feelings toward someone else's success

To show oneself useful

To bear up under provocation without complaint

Stands ones ground in light of opposition / Remain instead of flee

Looks forward with hope and not despair; trusts God

Doesn't lose faith, believes in the best of othes

Covers over, tolerates wrongness / Not vocal

Celebrating what is true and good, what is real

Not celebrating or praising injustice, evil

Rejoices in Truth

Does not rejoice in Wrongdoing

Is Not Resentful

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