

2019 – I Thessalonians 3:12

May the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people

- 1 Thess 3:12 and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in **love for one another, and for all people**, just as we also do for you;
- 1 Thess 5:15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but **always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people**.
- Gal 6:10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us **do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith**.

Love and pursue the good of believers and unbelievers

- 1) Love of others is a foundational commandment
 - a. Matt 22:37 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' 38 This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' 40 On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.
 - b. 1 John 3:23 This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.
- 2) Love of our brothers and sisters is the basis of our testimony
 - a. John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 **By this all men will know** that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.
 - b. John 17:21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so **that the world may believe** that You sent Me. ... 23 ... that they may be perfected in unity, so **that the world may know** that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. ... 26 and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.
- 3) Love of unbelievers is used to define the sonship and the perfection God calls us to
 - a. Matt 5:44 But I say to you, **love your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you, 45 **so that you may 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. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? ... 48 Therefore you are to **be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect**.
 - b. Luke 6:32 If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ... 35 But **love your enemies**, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and **you will be sons of the Most High**; **for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men**.
 - c. Luke 23:33-34 they crucified Him ... But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them"

What makes you feel loved by someone?

What can you do to love your brothers and sisters?

What can you do to love the unbelievers you know?

Love and care for members of the body

1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and **all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body**, so also is Christ. 13 For **by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is **not for this reason any the less a part of the body**. 16 And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But now **God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired**. 19 If they were all one member, where would the body be? 20 But now there are many members, but one body. 21 And **the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"**; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; 23 and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, 24 whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But **God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, 25 so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another**. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

13:1-3 If I ... do not have love, I have become a noisy gong ... I am nothing ... it profits me nothing.

Love unbelievers (even if they treat us poorly)

Luke 6:27 But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either. 30 Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. 31 Treat others the same way you want them to treat you. 32 If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount. 35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.

Rom 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ... 17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. ... 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. 19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. 20 "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Acts 7:59 They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" 60 Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.