

Love Is the Answer

The Golden Rule, Part 2

Target: Love others!

Key Verses

Matthew 22:37–40—Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (38) This is the first and great commandment. (39) And the second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (40) On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Suggested Bible Reading

- Luke chapters 8–10, 12–15
- 1 Corinthians 13

Other Recommended Reading

- Finish reading: *Love’s Many Faces (Get Activated! book)*

Prayer and Praise: “Give Me Love!”

Give me great love, Lord, great wisdom and patience, to know how to go out and come in wisely before all the people, so that I can be a good testimony and a witness of Your love every moment of every day. Give me Your wisdom from on high to know how to help those You bring across my path. Help me as I seek Your face, Your Holy Spirit, to receive Your Words for the right things to speak—my comments, even the slightest suggestions, so that I’m not speaking from my own understanding and my own mouth but by Your wisdom, Lord.

Help me, Lord, to follow You and do what You want me to do and say what You want me to say because I don’t know any other thing. I don’t even know what to do except to follow Your leading in all of these things.

Help me to be here to serve and help. As You gave us the example, I have come not to be ministered unto but to minister. Help me to be thoughtful and mindful of the needs of others. Amen.

Meditation: What Does Love Look Like?

What does love look like? It has hands to help others. It has feet to go to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and sadness. It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like. A smile of encouragement at the right moment may act like sunlight on a closed flower—it may be the turning point for a struggling life.

Stephen Grellet was a French-born Quaker who died in the U.S. in 1855. Grellet would be unknown to the world today except for a short prayer which lives on. The familiar lines, which have served as an inspiration to so many, are these:

“I shall pass through this world but once. Any good that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now and not delay it. For I shall not pass this way again.”

<To think about> *Jesus said the great commandments were to love God and love our neighbor as ourself. Part of love is sacrifice, going out of your way to help another, even if that person is a stranger. Are you on the lookout for ways that you can help others, even at personal cost? Are you putting God and others first in your life?*

Putting the Word into Action: “The Greatest of These Is Love”

Look up these verses and consider how you can apply them in your life. In what ways can you fulfill the Law of Love?

- God is love: 1 John 4:7–11
- The great commandment—to love: Matthew 22:36–40
- The golden rule: Matthew 7:12
- Love fulfils the old law: Galatians 5:14; Romans 13:8, 10; es 2:8
- The key love chapters: 1 Corinthians 13; 1 John 4
- Love on a day-to-day level: 1 Peter 4:8; John 15:12
- Love in action, not words alone: 1 John 3:17–18; Galatians 5:6; John 15:13; James 1:27
- Loving those we don’t like: Luke 6:32–36
- Sacrificial love: John 15:13; 1 John 3:16
- Compassion is loving deeds: James 2:15–17; Matthew 14:14
- Helping in a material way: Proverbs 3:27–28; James 2:18
- Helping the needy is giving to the Lord: Proverbs 19:17; Matthew 25:31–40
- Giving to God’s work: Romans 12:13; Acts 11:27–30; Genesis 8:22b; Malachi 3:10
- Our sample as Christians: John 13:35; 1 John 4:20; Ephesians 4:32
- The boomerang: Galatians 6:7; Matthew 7:2; Ecclesiastes 11:1; Luke 6:38
- Strength to love: John 15:5; Philippians 4:13; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Galatians 5:22