

The Passionate choice to love the Church

Living Radically Different - Genuine Christians passionately LOVE their brothers and sisters 1 Peter 1:22

Introduction

22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart

#1 WHEN do Christians learn to love? At CONVERSION

22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls

Romans 6:17 *But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, **Romans 1:5**, through whom we have received grace ... to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles, for His name's sake, **Romans 16:25** the gospel... 26 ... has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith;*

2 Thessalonians 2:10b *they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. **Ephesians 1:13** In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,*

John 3:36 *He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him. **Hebrews 5:9** ... He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation*

1 Peter 1:2 *according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ **14** As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts*

James 2:14 *What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him? 17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. **I John 2:4** The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; When true believers evidence obedience to the truth -*

1 Thessalonians 4:9 *Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;*

2 Corinthian 5:17 *if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

Romans 5:5 *... the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

#2 WHO are believers to love? The CHURCH

for a sincere love of the brethren,

John 15:12 *This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you*

1 John 4:7-8 *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

Romans 12:9 *Let love be without hypocrisy*

Galatians 6:1 *Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. 5 For each one will bear his own load.*

Romans 12:10a *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love;*

Hebrews 13:1 *Let love of the brethren continue*

John 13:35 *"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

#3 HOW are Christians to love each other?

By passionate CHOICE fervently love one another from the heart

1st God COMMANDS you to love

2nd Your WILL must be engaged to love

3rd Love is your choice to SACRIFICE

4th Your love must be INTENSE

5th Your love must come from the HOLY SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22 *the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...*

Ephesians 5:18 *...be filled with the Spirit,*

One - Don't minimize the IMPORTANCE of loving the saints

1 Corinthians 13:1 *If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 1 Corinthians 16:22* *If anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed.*

1 John 4:20 *If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.*

Two - True Christ-like love is always according to TRUTH

1 John 3:18 *Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.*

Three - You can't love like verse 22 teaches, unless you are in CHRIST

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