

GOD'S KIND OF LOVE

PART 1

Don Krow

Today we're going to talk about God's kind of love. In 1 Corinthians 13:13 it says this, "Now abideth faith, hope, charity [love], these three; but the greatest of these is charity [love]." Then 1 Corinthians 14:1 says, "Follow after charity [love] and [yet] desire [earnestly] spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy." The Bible says follow after love, pursue it, make it your highest aim. Some translations say make it your greatest quest. It's the only thing we'll take out of this life into eternity. We won't take our cars, our homes, or our money, but we will take the love that Jesus Christ has imparted into our lives by the Holy Spirit. Love is the only thing that has eternal value and substance.

What does love really mean? I say I love my wife, I love ice cream, I love apple pie. There's only one word in English to describe love; so when I say I love my wife and then say I love the cat, is my wife impressed? Not at all. Do you see what I'm saying? When we use the word love, some people think it means sex, some think it means an intense warm feeling—people have all kinds of definitions for love. In the Greek language there are four major words. One is "eros," which really is not used in the Bible, and is defined as sexual attraction or sexual love. God ordained that kind of love when He said a man shall leave his father and mother, cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. The book in the Bible entitled Song of Solomon is about sexual love that God has restricted to the marriage relationship. The other kinds of love, God says, are free to be used by all mankind, but this kind is restricted to the marriage relationship.

Another kind of love is called "storge" and is the natural bond or affection in a family relationship. Then there is "philia," which comes from the root word "phileo." This word is used about seventy-two times in the New Testament and means a warm feeling of affection that comes and goes in intensity. Most people who talk about love think that is what love really is, so "I fall in love and I fall out of love." If your marriage is built on that kind of love, there will be times when you have a high and times when you have a low—you could fall in love and out of love based on that.

The Bible says we're to love each other with God's kind of love, which is "agape" love. What is "agape" love? There are many facets, and 1 Corinthians 13 gives the whole definition of what love involves. In 1 John 5:3 it says, "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments." Jesus' commandments show us expressions of love, but if I were going to sum it up, I would use Matthew 7:12, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." It's not a matter of all those people down at the church don't love me, don't care about me, and this and that. No, the Bible says whatever you would want someone to do to you, you do to them first. That is love. It goes against our flesh, against our natural grain to seek the welfare and benefit of other people above ourselves. It takes God. Don't think I'm saying this can be manifested without God. The Bible says the fruit of the Spirit is love, and God is love. He is the source of love and the one who will show us how to love through His commandments. He's the one who will give us strength, even in light of our flesh, to make the right choices and decisions and act on the right principles.

I work at Andrew Wommack Ministries, and one day a few years back I wanted to go and pray as I usually do after work. I was in a park, and I said, "God, I really want to minister to somebody." It was a fairly warm day, and I saw a little boy and a little girl sitting on the swings. There was a swing open and I thought, "I'll go over there and be a swinger," so I went over and got on the swing. I turned to the little girl and said, "It's a nice day, isn't it?" She said, "Me no speak English," and I asked, "Where are you from?" She said she was from Romania. I knew there were Romanians in that area and I saw these people looking at me, probably wondering why I was talking to their children. I went over and said, "I want to help you." They said, "You would want to help us? Why would you want to help us? You don't even know us!" I said, "Because God wants to help you." I had been meditating on the principles of love in 1 John 3:18 where it says, "Let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." We're not to love with the words of our mouths only, but also with our actions. Although I usually don't carry money around with me, that day I had a little in my pocket. I reached out, said, "This is for you," and gave them the money. Since I'd been fasting that day, I had a little bit of food with me, so I said, "And here's some food for your family." They were touched and said, "Who are you?" I told them, "God has made a divine appointment for us to meet today, and I am going see you again."

I went home and told my wife about the encounter with those Romanians. I took a roast out of our freezer and cooked it. The next day I bought a box full of dishes at a garage sale and went back to the park with my wife. The Romanians and their children were there, and I said, "I bring gifts to you. They're heavy, so I'm going to get in my car, and if you'll show me where you live, I'll take the gifts to your home." When we got to their little one-bedroom apartment, I took the dishes and silverware—everything matched—out of the box and began to give things to them, one at a time. As I handed it to them, tears began to roll down their faces, and the lady said, "Me going to cry! Me going to cry!" I said, "On Monday night we have a Bible study at our home, and I would like to invite you there." They said, "We want to come," but I said, "I don't want you to come because I gave you gifts." They said, "No, we want to come and meet your friends."

Since they didn't have transportation, I picked them up, took them to my home, and before long God began to touch them. They couldn't speak English very well, but He touched them when we prayed for them. They began to be delivered and set free from things because the love of God was being manifested to them. Before long we met another Romanian couple, and I said to the first couple, "Will you go and help me meet another Romanian couple?" They agreed and I got a call one day from them, "Mr. Don, we heard about you. We have the lonelies bad, and we want to meet you." So I took my Romanian friends and went to meet them. I took gifts, food, and all kinds of things to them. As I did that and began to visit with them, everything was great until one of the first Romanian couple said, "You need to go to the Bible study. They talk about Jesus, and it's wonderful!" They said, "Wait a minute! We came from a communist country and don't know if there's a God. We don't want this Jesus stuff."

I said "Let me be a friend," and began to take them out on the weekends and buy them clothes, coats, and things they needed. They were very embarrassed and reluctant. "Well, don't you need a coat?" "Well, yes I do, but..." "Then let's get this coat for you." I began to love them in action, but they wouldn't come to our Bible study until I said, "There are probably some Americans there who will help you get a job." Then they came right away. At the Bible study that night I said something very foolish to the Lord, "Lord, you're going to have to give me a genuine gift of tongues tonight because we can't even communicate with each other very well." There were some Americans at the Bible study that night who gave their testimonies. When I began to speak, the lady from the second Romanian couple began to lighten up, and

I knew something was happening. After the study I said, “Let me pray for you,” and as we prayed, God suddenly touched them and filled the whole atmosphere of the room with His love. Then the lady said, “You know, when the Americans were speaking, I couldn’t understand anything they were saying, but when you got up and started speaking about Jesus and His love for us, and what he did so we could have a relationship with Him, I understood every word you said! I understood it perfectly! It must be God! It must be God!” As a result, lives were changed, not just the Romanians.

Let me tell you what happened then. My home began to be filled on Monday nights with international people—Romanians, Bulgarians, and people from Russia. God was changing lives, and they knew we loved them. We even had people from Africa. Though we could hardly speak to each other, one thing they knew: when we prayed, God would manifest Himself to them. They also knew that I would do anything for them and that I loved them. God changed their lives and the lives of many other people, and I want to tell you how it happened. It happened because one day in a park I saw some people of another color, another nationality. I didn’t have any warm feeling of affection, but I knew that love was this: whatever you would want someone to do to you, do to them. I sought their welfare and benefit regardless of the way I felt, and you know what happened? They so appreciated it, that what rose up in them was “philia” love, the love that had feelings for me, and they began to say to me, “I love you,” and hug me and kiss me. What it did in me was generate that kind of feeling for them. If you want to have a love that has feelings in your life, practice the godly love. Seek the welfare and benefit of others regardless of how you feel.

God bless you as you meditate on this teaching today.

GOD'S KIND OF LOVE

PART 1

(Outline)

1 Corinthians 13:13-14:1 says, "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy."

According to the Bible, we are to pursue love and make it our aim, our greatest quest.

The love of Jesus Christ, that has been imparted to us by the Holy Spirit, is the only thing we will take out of this life into eternity. It has eternal value.

In the Greek language there are four major words for love:

1. Eros: A sexual attraction, sexual oneness, which God has restricted to a marriage relationship.
2. Storge: A natural affection or bond one has in a family relationship.
3. Phileo: A warm feeling of affection that comes and goes with intensity. This is the kind that most people think real love is.
4. Agape: God's kind of love.
 - A. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 says, "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, ⁵Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; ⁶Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; ⁷Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."
 - B. 1 John 5:3 says, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." Jesus' commandments show us expressions of love.
 - C. Matthew 7:12 says, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." Seeking the welfare and benefit of others above ourselves.

It takes God to love others, because it goes against our natural tendency to seek the welfare of another above ourselves.

God is love, and the source of love. He, through His commandments, will show us how to love and give us the strength to love—even taking into consideration the limitations of our flesh—so we can make the right choices and act upon the right principles.

1 John 3:18 says, “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”

Our love for God and others is demonstrated by our actions.

GOD'S KIND OF LOVE
PART 1
(Teacher's Guide)

1. What is God's love summed up in? (1 John 5:3)

In keeping His commandments.

2. Explain how the commandments in Romans 13:9-10 are summed up in love.

Love works no wrong to his neighbor. Each commandment shows love by showing how we should respond to our neighbor.

3. How can we love our enemies, even when we don't feel like it? (Romans 12:19-21)

If our enemy is hungry, we can feed him; if he is thirsty, we can give him something to drink. We can seek the welfare and benefit of others, regardless of how we feel.

4. How does Titus 2:4 show us that love can be taught and is just not a feeling?

According to this verse, women can be taught to love their husbands and children. It's not just a feeling.

5. A. Describe the principles of 1 Corinthians 13:4-7: "Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him" (The Living Bible).

B. How could these characteristics be put to practice in your life?

6. According to 1 John 3:18, how must we practice love?

Let us not love only with our words, but also in our actions.

GOD'S KIND OF LOVE

PART 1

(Detailed Teacher's Guide)

Note: The following information may be read out loud (a numbered section at a time) with the person(s) being disciplined. After each numbered section is read, pause and ask the question(s) that correspond to the paragraph(s), and then discuss them.

¹ The Bible never teaches you to love only when you feel like loving. The problem is that we don't feel like it often enough. The world isn't full of love, is it? The Bible doesn't say to feel like loving and then love. The Bible commands me to love and my feelings will follow. Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church—that's the commandment (Ephesians 5:25).

² If I thought that love was just a feeling or an emotion I might say, "I want to be with you because I feel good when I'm with you." What if that was my only concept of love? It is a form of love, but it's not the kind of love that God commands us to have. God says, "I'm telling you to love your enemies. Bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, pray for those who despitefully use you" (Matthew 5:44).

If I thought love was just a warm feeling I'd be saying, "God, do you mean I have to have a warm feeling of love and affection for somebody who slaps me in the face, persecutes me, hates me, and slanders me? That's impossible." But the Bible didn't say to love when you feel love.

³ Let's say two singles want to be united in matrimony. We ask the man, "Do you solemnly promise and vow that you will love this woman, you'll take her as your wife, cherish her and honor her?" And the man vows, "Yes, I do." Then she says her vows. So we pronounce them man and wife and they go on their way. Suppose a few years later, or maybe after only one year, they come back and they're having problems in their marriage. She says, "He doesn't love me. He doesn't show me any affection or kindness. He just doesn't love me." We ask him, "Is this true?" And he replies, "Yes, that's right." Why does this happen?

¹ (a) What is God's Love summed up in according to 1 John 5:3?

(b) Explain how the commandments in Romans 13:9-10 are summed up in love?

² How can we love our enemies, even when we don't feel like it? (see Romans 12:19-21)

³ How does Titus 2:4 show us that love can be taught and is not just a feeling?

⁴ I used to think that if I taught my children enough Bible verses, when they got older they would “not depart from the Lord” and everything would be fine. Then one day I discovered that it wasn’t going to be some Bible verse that I made my son memorize that would carry him through life. It’s what he experiences in my home that he’s going to take out into his life. I know because what I experienced in my home is what I took out into my life.

If you come from a dysfunctional home and you’ve never seen love or you’ve never seen expressions of kindness and affection, if you never heard your father or mother ever say, “I love you” to each other, then it won’t matter if you come to marriage and vow to love your spouse for the rest of your life. If you’ve never seen your parents hug or kiss, or you never saw your father give a gift to your mother just because he wanted to, you have no concept of what I’m talking about. You have no concept at all about what I mean by love or how to be loving to someone. Even if you vow to do it, in just a matter of months your marriage will break down and start falling to pieces. You see, my son is going to take out of my home what he’s seen in my home, what he’s felt in my home and what he’s experienced in my home. If he never experienced it, then he can’t take it with him.

⁵ Perhaps you never saw affection, or expressions of kindness and love in your home. There’s only one way to love with God’s kind of love, it has to be learned. It’s going to have to come from God’s Word.

⁴ (a) Describe the principles of 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

(b) How could these be put to practice in your life?

⁵ According to 1 John 3:18, how must we practice love?

GOD'S KIND OF LOVE
PART 1
(Discipleship Questions)

Abide: to continue, dwell, endure, remain, tarry, persevere, to stay behind, steadfast continuance, to lodge in, to establish, to appoint, to hold fast.

Read John 15:9

1. How does Jesus love us?
2. What does Jesus command us to do in His love?
3. Do you think God loves Jesus with an infinite and all encompassing kind of love?
4. Do you realize that Jesus loves you with that same measure of love?

Read John 15:12-13

5. What is Christ commanding us to do?
6. Is this optional?
7. What is "greater love" according to this verse?
8. What did Christ do for you on the cross?
9. Do you recognize the depth with which Jesus loves you, to have given His very life for you?
10. Praise God for His love toward you right now!

Read Romans 8:35-39

11. List the seven things mentioned in verse 35 that shall not separate us from the love of Christ.
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
 - D. _____
 - E. _____
 - F. _____
 - G. _____
12. Verse 37 gives us much confidence. What are we through Christ Who loves us?

13. List all the things in verses 38-39 that “shall not be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Jesus our Lord.”

A. _____ nor _____
B. _____ nor _____
C. _____ nor _____ nor _____
D. _____ nor _____ nor _____
Do you believe Him?

Read Galatians 2:20

14. If you are born again, who have you been crucified with?
15. In Christ, do you live for yourself?
16. Why did Jesus give His life for you?

Read Ephesians 3:16-19

17. According to the “riches of His glory,” what is Paul praying that we might be?
18. Where does Christ want to dwell?
19. What makes it possible for Him to dwell there?
20. What are we to be “rooted and grounded” in?
21. What is it that Paul is praying that we may comprehend?
22. What is it that we are to “know” so that we may be filled with all the fullness of God?
23. Who do you think the “fullness of God” is?

Read 1 Timothy 1:12-14

24. How did Christ show His love toward Paul?
“He counted me _____, putting me into the _____, although I was formerly a _____, a _____, and an _____ man.”
25. Were we deserving by man’s standard to receive this great reward?
26. Praise God He doesn’t use man’s standard to judge us!!

Read 1 John 3:23

27. What are we commanded to do?

Read 1 John 4:7-11

- 28. (Verse 7) Why should we love one another?
- 29. Do we know God if we do not love?
- 30. Why not?
- 31. How was the “love of God manifested toward us”?
- 32. (Verse 10) “In this is love, _____.”
- 33. What are we called to do “if God loved us”?

Read John 13:34-35

- 34. What is the “new commandment” that Christ gives to us?
- 35. How are we to love one another?
- 36. How will others recognize that we are “disciples” of Christ?

Read John 13:1

- 37. How long will Christ love those who are His?

Read John 14:21

- 38. If we love Christ, what will we do?
- 39. If we love Jesus, by Whom else will we be loved?
- 40. In verse 21 Jesus promises us to do what, if we love him?

MANIFEST: to show, appear, to cause to shine, uncover, make clear, lay bare.

Read John 14:22-24

- 41. What question did Judas ask of Jesus?
- 42. Jesus’ response was that if we loved Him, we would do what?
- 43. Who will come and make their home with us, and dwell in us, when we keep His Word?
- 44. Whose Word is it that we are hearing? God the Father or Jesus the Son

Read Romans 5:8

45. How did God demonstrate His love toward us?

Read Romans 13:9-10

46. What is the only thing we are to owe one another?
47. What is the one commandment that fulfills all other commandments?
48. Does love harm your neighbor?
49. Is love the fulfillment of the law?

Read Romans 12:19-21

50. Are we to avenge ourselves?
51. To Whom does vengeance belong?
52. "Therefore," how are we to treat our enemy?
53. How do we overcome evil?
54. Can we love our enemy without feeling like it?

ADMONISH: to train, to teach, to put in mind, impart positive truth, to advise, instruct.

Read Titus 2:4

55. Can love be taught, or is it just a natural feeling?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

56. In the appropriate column, list what love is, and what love is not. For every negative example, write also its opposite.

WHAT LOVE IS

WHAT LOVE IS NOT

Read 1 John 3:18

57. How are we to love one another?

Read 1 John 5:1-5

58. What must we do to be “born of God”

59. How is it we are able to love others?

60. How do we know that we love God?

61. Are God’s commandments burdensome?

62. If we are born of God, what are we able to overcome?

63. What is the victory that has overcome the world?

64. Who is he who has overcome the world?

GOD'S KIND OF LOVE
PART 1
(Discipleship Answer Key)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. As the Father loves Him | 17. To be strengthened with might through His Spirit |
| 2. Abide | 18. In your hearts |
| 3. Yes | 19. Faith |
| 4. Yes | 20. Love |
| 5. Love one another as He has loved us | 21. What is the width, depth, length, and height of His love for us |
| 6. No | 22. The love of Christ |
| 7. To lay down your life for your friends | 23. Jesus Christ |
| 8. Laid down His life for me | 24. Faithful – ministry – blasphemer – persecutor insolent (injurious) |
| 9. Yes | 25. No |
| 10. Praise God! | 26. Yes, praise God! |
| 11. A. Tribulation
B. Distress
C. Persecution
D. Famine
E. Nakedness
F. Peril
G. Sword | 27. Believe on the name of Jesus and love one another |
| 12. More than conquerors | 28. Because God loves us |
| 13. A. Death nor life
B. Angels nor principalities
C. Powers nor things present nor things to come
D. Height nor depth nor any created thing
Yes | 29. No |
| 14. Christ | 30. Because God is love |
| 15. No | 31. God sent His only Son so that we might live through Him |
| 16. Because He loved me | 32. Not that we loved God, but that He loved us; Jesus was the propitiation of our sins |
| | 33. To love one another |
| | 34. To love one another |

- | | |
|---|--|
| 35. As Christ loved us | 57. In deed and truth |
| 36. If we have love for one another | 58. Believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God |
| 37. To the end | 59. When we love God and keep His commands. |
| 38. Keep His commandments | 60. We keep His commandments |
| 39. The Father | 61. No |
| 40. Manifest Himself to us | 62. The world |
| 41. How would Jesus manifest Himself to us
and not the world | 63. Our faith |
| 42. Keep His word | 64. Jesus—the Son of God |
| 43. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit | |
| 44. God the Father | |
| 45. Christ died for us while we were sinners | |
| 46. Love | |
| 47. To love your neighbor as yourself | |
| 48. No | |
| 49. Yes | |
| 50. No | |
| 51. The Lord | |
| 52. Feed him, give him drink – with love | |
| 53. With good | |
| 54. Yes | |
| 55. It can be taught | |
| 56. What love is: patient, rejoices in truth, believes,
bears, hopes, and endures all things, never fails.
What love is not: envious, proud, arrogant, rude
selfish, provoked, evil. | |

GOD'S KIND OF LOVE

PART 1

(Additional Information)

One of the most striking differences to me between the world's love and God's kind of love is that you can teach yourself to operate in God's love. Titus 2:4 says that the older women are to teach the younger women "to love their husbands, to love their children." Carnal love is completely motivated by the emotions or senses, but God's love comes from the heart, and although the feelings are definitely affected, they don't motivate or deter God's love.

Carnal love is characterized by a naked little fat boy who goes around shooting people with arrows to cause them to "fall" in love or to "fall" out of love. That simply is not true love. God's love is the same yesterday, today, and forever. That is the way God is (Hebrews 13:8) and God is love (1 John 4:8). People who love one minute and then their mood changes and they act the opposite way the next minute simply don't operate in God's love. You may feel like reacting in anger but you can choose to operate in love.

Many people are confused about this and think, "I can't act like I love them when I don't feel it." Oh, yes you can! God's Word tells us to even love our enemies (Matthew 5:44); it is a command. He didn't say to do it if you felt like it. If you will choose to do what God tells you to, your feelings will follow. You can teach yourself to love with God's kind of love.

A person who is truly born again desires to do what God says but doesn't always feel like it. Our feelings have been corrupted by our old life before we came to Christ. Now that we are in Christ, we have His promise that our spirit has been totally changed (2 Corinthians 5:17) and has become like Him. Galatians 5:22 says that love is a fruit of the Spirit. This is speaking specifically of the Holy Spirit but our new man was born of the Spirit, so it has to be true that God's love has been shed abroad in our spirits too. We do have God's love in our new man. Our feelings are not automatically changed, however. Our feelings will continue to act like they were taught to act until we subdue them and bring them under the control of our spirit man. So it is not hypocritical to act in love when you don't feel it. It is actually hypocritical to act on what you feel instead of who you really are in Christ Jesus.

God's kind of love is a choice that you make on the basis of what God said, and then act on it in faith until it becomes a reality in your spirit, soul and body.

Copyright © 2004 Don W. Krow
Discipleship Evangelism
P.O. Box 17007
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935-7007 U.S.A.
www.krowtracts.com www.delessons.org
Phone: 719-577-7775