



Eagle Forum Prayer Guide October 2023

Scripture

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

Ephesians 4:2 – “With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.”

John 14:23 – “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.’”

1 John 4:18 – “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

James 1:22 – “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

Commentary – Are we showing love to those around us?

One of the scribes asked Jesus which is the greatest commandment in the Law? Jesus replied in Matthew 22:37-40, *“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”*

Since Jesus said the two greatest commandments in the Bible are based on love it is imperative that we understand what love is and what love is not. The Bible lays out the best description of love’s attributes in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. *“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trust, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”*

The apostle John gives us more clarity by explaining that love is not just words but actions and deeds. 1 John 3:16-18 says, *“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deeds and in truth.”*

Jesus said the greatest depiction of love is to lay down your life for a friend. John 15:13 says, *“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”* God not only commands us to love our friends but to show love to our enemies. Luke 6:35 says, *“But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.”*

Insight into the early churches’ rapid growth can be seen through actions of love. Acts 2:44-47 says, *“Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all as anyone had need. So, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily ...”*

Could the rapid decline of the nuclear family and the American church be because of our lack of love for God and our fellow man? Is our self-centered nature with a focus on our needs, wants, hopes, desires and security driving people away from the Church, God, Jesus Christ, and our political views? The apostle John warns us in 1 John 2:15-16, *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world.”* Each day our actions, words and choices either show love which attracts those around us or a lack of love which drives them away.

Shows Love towards Others

Shows a Lack of Love towards Others

Generous, shares time & money	Stingy, selfish, self-seeking
Patience, gentleness, empathy	Gruff, confrontational, adversarial speech
Does not envy or covet other’s possessions	Steals, envies, and covetousness
Considers others better than self	Proud, berates, boastful, belittles others
Kind, forgiving, encouraging	Short-tempered, rude, filthy language
Truthful, builds up, positive speech	Lies, gossips, insinuates, tears down others
Purity in words, actions, and deeds	Drunk, fornication, adultery, evil desires
Believes the best, hopeful, trusting	Cynical, fearful, dishonors others
Optimistic, positive attitude and speech	Despair, depression, negativity
Preserves, protects, meets others’ needs	Lack of self-control, anger, malice
Willing to sacrifice, merciful	Unmerciful, greedy, unforgiving, deceitful

Prayer

1. Pray that God would show us how to love Him and love others as we love ourselves.
2. Pray that God would place several individuals on our heart that we could show acts of love and mercy.
3. Pray that each day we would evaluate our actions, thoughts, speech, and deeds aligning them with God's love for us and his expectations for our love of others.
4. Pray that we would immerse ourselves in God's word and that we would put on the full armor of God and be prepared to speak truth, show love to those around us, defend our faith, and stand against the forces of evil.
5. Pray that God would open the eyes of millions more people who would also receive his love and resist the evil surrounding us
6. Pray that our churches would wake up and aggressively speak God's truth and show God's love and mercy to others
7. Pray that God would bring about a great revival in us, our families, Conroe, Montgomery County, Texas, the United States, and the whole world.