

How to Stay Loving

Jesus answered, “The most important command is ... ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ The second command is this: ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ There are no commands more important than these.”

Mark 12:29–31

What is love?

- **A choice.** Colossians 3:14
- **An action.** 1 John 3:18

God’s love is revealed in how I...

1. **Accept others unconditionally.**

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Romans 15:7

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 12:18

2. **Be committed to others.**

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:10

so, in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:5

3. **Encourage others continually.**

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

If you love someone...you will always believe in him, and always expect the best of him.

1 Corinthians 13:7

4. Give grace to others.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10

Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Romans 12:13

5. Forgive others freely.

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Colossians 3:13

6. Share Christ with others.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15-16

For Christ's love compels us.

2 Corinthians 5:14

I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your heart, living within you as you trust Him. May your roots go deep into the soil of God's marvelous love, and may you be able to feel and understand ...how long, wide, deep, and high His love really is, and experience this love for yourselves.

Ephesians 3:17-18