LOVE: THE CHRISTIANS RESPONSIBILITY

Introduction

Greatest commandment

New commandment

Goal of Paul's instruction

I. The Definition (meaning) of Love

A. ἐνέκρατον—to esteem, love, indicating a direction of the will and finding
   one's joy in something or someone vs. _______ to love, indicating
   Feelings, warm affection

B. ἐναμοίρεσις—love, affectionate regard, good will, benevolence

C. ἐναμοίρεσις—beloved, dear

D. Love (ἀγάπη) is a decision of the will to seek the highest good for a person, principle, or
   thing by a sacrificial giving of oneself and possessions, whether material or non-
   material.

E. Lust (ἐρως ὑμάλως) is a strong desire to receive benefit at another's expense.

II. The Derivation (source) of Love

A. God's example
   1. The Father's love
      a. His attribute—God is love
         I Jn. 4:8—"the one who does not love does not know God for God is love"
         I Jn. 4:16—"...God is love and the one who abides in love abides is God..."
         II Cor. 13:11—"...the God of love and peace shall be with you"
      b. His action
         1.) God loves the Son
            a.) Col. 1:13—"... into the kingdom of (lit.) the Son of His love"
            b.) Jn.17:26—"...that the love wherewith You (Father) love Me (Son)"
            c.) Jn. 15:9—"Just as the Father loved Me..."
            d.) Jn. 3:35—"The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand"
            e.) Jn. 17:24—"...my glory which You have given Me, for You love Me..."
            e.) Jn. 10:17—"...the Father loves Me because I may lay down my life..."
         2.) God loves sinners
            a.) Jn. 3:16—"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."
            b.) Rom. 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love toward us in that while we
               were yet sinners, Christ died for us
         3.) God loves the saints
            a.) The degree—Jn. 17:23—"... that the world may know You sent Me and loved
               them as You loved Me."
            b.) The demonstration
               (1.) He chose them—Col. 3:12. I Thess. 1:4, II Thess.2:13,
               (2.) "loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope" II Thess.2:16
               (3.) "Made us alive...raised us up...seated us with Him" Eph. 2:4-6
               (4.) "...love of God is poured out within our hearts through the Holy
                  Spirit who was given to us" Rom 5:5 also I Jn. 4:13
               (5.)"... that we would be called the children of God I Jn. 3:1
               (6.)"...in love He predestined us to adoption as sons..."Eph. 1:4-5
               (7.) nothing "...will be able to separate us from the love of God..."R.8:39
               (8.) "For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines..." Heb. 12:6
               (9.) "...he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to
                  those who love Him" Jam.1:12
               (10.) "...things which eye has not seen and hear has not heard...
                  all that God has prepared for those who love Him" I Cor. 2:9
               (11.) "...heirs to the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him
                  Jam. 2:5
2. The Son's Love
   a. His attribute—Jesus Christ is God and God is love I Jn. 4:8, 16; II Cor. 13:11
      --and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge Ep. 3:19
   b. His action
      1.) The Son loves the Father
         Jn. 14:31—"but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly
         as the Father commanded Me..."
         Jn. 15:10—"...as I have kept My Father's commands and abide in His love"
      2.) The Son loves sinners—He came to earth and became the propitiation for sins
         I Jn. 2:2
      3.) The Son loves saints
         a.) Martha, her sister, and Lazarus Jn. 11:5
         c.) Paul Gal. 2:20
         d.) Disciples Jn. 13:1; 15:13,14,16; 19:9
         e.) Saints Jn. 14:21; Rom. 8:33-37; Eph. 3:19; 5:2; I Jn. 3:16; Rev. 1:5
         f.) Church Eph 5:25
      4.) The Son loves righteousness Heb. 1:9

3. The Holy Spirit's Love
   a. His attribute—the Holy Spirit is God and God is love I Jn. 4:8,16; II Cor. 13:11
      --the fruit of the Spirit is love..." Gal 5:22-23
   b. His action
      1.) —the fruit of the Spirit is love..." Gal 5:22-23 which He gives to those who walk by Him
      2.) "...the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Sprit who
         was given to us Rom. 5:5
      3.)"Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to
         Strive together with me in your prayers to God for me." Rom. 15:30

B. God’s enablement
   1. "...for love is from God and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God" I Jn. 4:7
   2. "...if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us" I Jn. 4:12
   3. "By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit I Jn. 4:13
   4. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love..." Gal 5:22-23
   5. "...love of God is poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us" Rom 5:5,
      I Jn. 4:13

III. The Description (characteristics) of Love I Cor. 13:4-8a
   A. Patient
   B. Kind
   C. Not jealous
   D. Not brag
   E. Not arrogant
   F. Not act unbecomingly
   G. Not seek its own
   H. Not provoked
   I. Not take into account a wrong
   J. Not rejoice in unrighteousness
   K. Rejoices in the truth
   L. Bears all things
   M. Believes all things
   N. Hopes all things
   O. Endures all things
   P. Never fails
1. You will keep my commandments, so you will love your neighbor.

2. Love Christ.

3. Love the Holy Spirit (see 1 above).

4. With an inexpressible love.

5. Peace and grace be with those...

6. If God were your Father you would...
1. Love your enemies.

2. Love your neighbors.

3. Do not be emulated against them.

4. Live your wives in understanding.

5. Great honor to a fellow heir I Pet. 3:7.

6. Love God with all your heart.

7. Love your neighbors.

8. Love your enemies.

9. Love the poor.

10. Love the righteous.

11. Love the holy.

12. Love the fools.

13. Love the upright.

14. Love the righteous.

15. Love the poor.

16. Love the merciful.

17. Love the humble.

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