And Jesus told us that true love for God was characterized by obedience to God's commandments. One cannot say that they love God, and live in disobedience to His commandments.

John 14:15 - "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." NASB
John 14:21 - "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him." NASB
1 John 5:3-4 - "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome." NASB
John 15:10-12 - "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love. 11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. 12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you." NASB

There is no escaping then this huge responsibility that we have as the children of God to love one another. This demonstrates our love for God and Christ and fulfills the whole Law. This of course was what Jesus said was the main thing in all of the Bible, love for God and neighbor.

Matthew 22:36-40 - "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." 38 "This is the great and foremost commandment." 39 "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" 40 "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." NASB

Keeping the main thing, the main thing
Let us recognize then the great Christian priority to always be striving to love and to be characterized by love in every way. Let us keep constant vigil over our hearts to always be filled with love for others in the church. This is the main and important thing!

1 Peter 4:8 - Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. NASB

For this the Apostles labored in prayer, that our love would abound.

Philippians 1:9-11 - 9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; 11 having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. NASB

And their constant instruction and exhortation was to put on love and pursue love.

Romans 12:9-10 - 9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; NASB

1 Corinthians 16:14 - 14 Let all that you do be done in love. NASB

Galatians 5:22-23 - 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. NASB

Colossians 3:12-16 - 12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. 14 And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. NASB

1 Peter 1:22 - 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. NASB
1 Peter 3:8-9 - 8 To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; 9 not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. NASB

Hebrews 10:23-25 - 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near. NASB

Let us never forget to keep the main thing, the main thing, to love God and one another.

Humility the wellspring of virtue

It is impossible for the virtues of God’s good character to be reproduced in any meaningful measure in a heart and life that is proud. This is because the disposition of pride has an unhealthy focus on self, the very enemy of love and virtue.

Pride – The mindset of self, a focus on self and the service of self, a pursuit of self-recognition and self-exaltation, and a desire to control and use all things for self. The very nature of pride itself is a spiritual blindness, an inability to discern the true reality of spiritual things, including and most importantly its relation to God and others. The proud person is not aware of themselves and how proud they really are, looking down on others and appraising them according to an inflated view of self. Pride is also the very nature of hypocrisy. The proud person thinks more highly of themselves than is true or than they should. The thing to which they are blind the most is their own pride and arrogance. Being so charmed by their own inflated self-respect, they make a wrong appraisal of themselves, God and others. Pride is self-righteous, thinking itself more righteous than others. Pride is self-exalting seeking to be noticed, appreciated and recognized. Pride is self-willed going its own way without the input of God or others thinking to highly of its own wisdom. Pride self-reliant thinking it can handle any situation and can do everything on its own, not recognizing its total dependence of God for strength and resources. Pride can also be self-pitying having an inflated view of oneself that is always introspective and therefore consumed with self and wanting to be accepted, recognized and the center of attention.

Humility on the other hand is perfect habitat for the virtues of God’s good character to thrive because of its contrite disposition toward God and others.

Humility – The mindset of Christ, a focus on God and others, a pursuit of the recognition and the exaltation of God, and a desire to glorify and please God in all things and by all things He has given. The idea of humility in the Bible is to make oneself low, or to bow down. It is to be of a servants mind, servile, and also to be lowly, yielding, submissive, meek and gentle. It is to be modest and unpretentious, to see others as more important than itself. It seeks to draw attention to God and His glory, and to honor, appreciate and commend others for their virtue. Humility does not have an inflated view of self, but rather recognized one’s own spiritual bankruptcy before God’s holiness and sees itself then in need of grace for its sinfulness and in need of mercy for its weakness. Humility has a clear self-image because it sees itself with faith depending on God. Humility rejoices when others are blessed and rather than feeling jealous or envious, is happy to bless and to serve others for their benefit, and even to make personal sacrifices to see these things happen and for God to get the glory for it. Humility does not seek its own glory or attention. The genuinely humble person is content to be forgiven of their many sins, to have the bare necessities of life, and their great privilege is to love and serve God and to love and serve others. Humility is NOT self-righteous, thinking itself more