

## Love is ...

<b>God is love.</b>	(1 John 4:8 ESV) Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.
<b>God teaches us to love one another.</b>	(1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 ESV) Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, 10 for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more.
<b>Paul describes biblical love.</b>	(1 Corinthians 13:4-7 ESV) Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
<b>Love is fruit of the Spirit.</b>	(Galatians 5:22-23 ESV) 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.
<b>Love does no wrong to a neighbor.</b>	(Romans 13:10 ESV) Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.
<b>Love is laying down our lives.</b>	(1 John 3:16-17 ESV) By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?
<b>Love is the Golden Rule.</b>	(Matthew 7:12 ESV) So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

## Loving our enemies is ...

<b>(Luke 6:27-30 ESV) To you who hear ...</b>	But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do good to those who hate you,</li> <li>• Bless those who curse you,</li> <li>• Pray for those who abuse you,</li> <li>• To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also,</li> <li>• And from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either,</li> <li>• Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back.</li> </ul>
<b>(Luke 6:31 ESV) Golden Rule ...</b>	And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.
<b>(Luke 6:32-35 ESV) Expecting nothing in return ...</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.</li> <li>• And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.</li> <li>• And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount.</li> <li>• But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.</li> </ul>
<b>(Luke 6:36 ESV) Mercy ...</b>	Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.



## To Do List for Living Like God ...



**Mercy Wins!**

- Love my enemies.
- Bless those who curse me.
- Do good to those who hate me.
- Pray for those who spitefully use me.
- Bring sunshine on the evil and the good.
- Bring rain on the just and the unjust.
- Love even those who don't love me back.
- Welcome everyone.
- Be perfect like my Father.
- Receive the reward of my Father.
- Be a son of God.
- Always remember mercy wins.
- For to him who has shown no mercy the judgment [will be] merciless, **but mercy [full of glad confidence] exults victoriously over judgment** (James 2:13 AMP).

**But do we need definitions or something more?**

- The lawyer last week asked Jesus to define "neighbor." But did that help him? Is that what he truly needed for him to obey Christ's teaching?
- (Luke 10:29 The Message) Looking for a loophole, he asked, "And just how would you define 'neighbor'?"