

BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF LOVE

A. The importance of loving God.

1. It is the first commandment. Matt. 22:37-39
2. It is a virtue to be sought above all. I Cor. 12:31; 13:13; Col. 3:14
3. It is a necessary requirement for exercising faith. Gal. 5:6
4. It is an evidence of genuine Sonship. John 13:34,35; I John 13:16-18
5. It is inseparably related to obedience. John 14:15,23,24; I John 5:3

B. The nature or meaning of love.

1. Love to God is a response to His love for us. I John 4:19
2. Love has a person as its object. Matt. 22:37-39
3. Love is a decision to recognize another person as a person, to give that person rightful place in one's life, and to do the right (thing) by them. Matt. 5:43,44; I Cor. 13:4-7; Eph. 5:28,29
4. To love God is to recognize Him as the true and living God and to give Him His rightful place in our lives.
 - a. God is Holiness - all irreverence and ungodliness must be rejected.
 - b. God is Love - all forms of selfishness must be rejected.
 - c. God is Truth - all dishonesty, lying, and hypocrisy must be rejected.
 - d. God is our Creator - all spurious goals must be rejected.
 - e. God is our Sanctification - all immaturity, unbelief must be rejected.
 - f. God is our Savior - all sins of commission and omission must be rejected.
 - g. God is the Head of the Church - all failure to be involved must be rejected.
 - h. God is the Lord of the Harvest Field - all failure to bear witness must be rejected.
 - i. God is the Sovereign Lord - all failure to obey must be rejected.
5. Love is an activity of complete self surrender. Eph. 5:2; I John 3:16
6. Love may not be accompanied by personal affection. Matt. 5:44
7. Love seeks the good in another person, it is the deliberate choice to be involved in honesty and righteousness with them. I John 3:16-18