

80 Bible Verses About Love

From Genesis to Revelation • New King James Version

Here is the most staggering truth in the universe: the God who spoke stars into existence, who holds galaxies in the palm of His hand, who existed before time itself had a name — that God looked at you and chose to love you. Not after you cleaned yourself up. Not after you figured life out. Not after you became worthy. Before. While you were still a mess, while you were still far away, while you were still a sinner — He sent His Son. That is not religion. That is a rescue mission driven by the most reckless, relentless, unstoppable love the world has ever witnessed.

I have been studying Scripture for decades, and I can tell you this without hesitation: the love of God is not a footnote in the Bible. It is the headline. From Genesis to Revelation, every page is God reaching toward people who keep pulling away, every chapter is a new act of grace given to people who do not deserve it, every book is another verse in the same eternal song — I love you. Come back. I love you still.

These eighty verses will not give you the full picture. Nothing written by human hands could. But they will give you a window. Stand at that window long enough, and what you see will change you.

Read them slowly. Let them find you exactly where you are.

God's Love: Where It All Begins

Every other love in this collection flows from this one. God loved first. That changes everything.

1

JOHN 3:16

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

This is the most quoted verse in Scripture, which means it is also the most familiar — and familiarity can dull what is meant to astonish. God so loved. The so is not an intensifier of degree. It describes the manner: in this way, to this extent. He loved the world by giving. The love is defined by what it cost.

2

ROMANS 5:8

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

While we were still sinners. The love of God does not wait for improvement before it acts. It acts toward the unimproved, the undeserving, the ones who have not yet turned around. The cross was not the reward for repentance. It was the reason repentance became possible.

3

1 JOHN 4:9-10

“In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

Not that we loved God, but that He loved us. John closes the question of who moved first. We did not initiate this. We did not earn it. The love of God is not responsive to our goodness. It is the origin of it. He loved us into loving.

4

1 JOHN 4:16

“And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.”

God is love. Not God has love, not God shows love. God is love — it is His nature, not His mood. Love is not something God decides to demonstrate on good days. It is the substance of who He is. To know God is to encounter love at its purest source.

5

JEREMIAH 31:3

“Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.”

Everlasting love. Before you existed. Before you had done anything to attract or repel it. The love of God for you is older than your birth and longer than your life. And it is not static — it draws. It is a love that moves toward you, not one that merely waits at a distance.

6

ZEPHANIAH 3:17

“The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.”

He rejoices over you with singing. The God of the universe, who spoke galaxies into being, sings over you with gladness. This is not love as duty or love as theology. It is love as delight — the kind a parent feels holding a child, the kind that breaks into song before it can help itself.

THE UNBREAKABLE LOVE

The Unbreakable Love

Nothing in all creation can separate you from it. Paul searched every category and came up empty.

7

ROMANS 8:38-39

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Paul lists every category of threat and declares none of them capable of cutting the connection. Death cannot. The future cannot. Nothing in creation can reach far enough to separate you from this love. The love of God is not a fraying thread you must keep from snapping. It is a bond nothing was made strong enough to break.

8

PSALM 136:26

“Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy endures forever.”

The Hebrew word here is hesed — covenant love, loyal love, steadfast love. It appears twenty-six times as the refrain of Psalm 136 because one repetition is not enough. Say it again until the soul believes it: His love endures forever. Not until you fail. Not until you exhaust His patience. Forever.

9

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23

“Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.”

Jeremiah wrote this from the rubble of a destroyed city. Not from a comfortable place where gratitude is easy. The love of God that does not consume, the compassions that are new every morning — these are truths discovered in ruins, not in comfort. Which means they are available in yours.

10

ISAIAH 54:10

“‘For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed,’ says the Lord, who has mercy on you.”

Covenant of peace — the love of God as a binding agreement, not a fluctuating mood. Mountains are the most permanent things the ancient world could imagine. God says His love is more permanent than those. The geology will change before His kindness toward you does.

HOW HIGH AND HOW DEEP

How High and How Deep

The Scriptures reach for the largest possible comparisons and still fall short of describing it.

1

PSALM 103:11

1

“For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him.”

As high as the heavens above the earth. David reaches for the largest spatial comparison available and says: that is the measure of God’s love. Not the width of a country or the depth of an ocean. The height of the sky. Some things are too large to measure. God’s love is one of them.

1

PSALM 103:17

2

“But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children’s children.”

From everlasting to everlasting. Before time began on one side, after it ends on the other. The love of God brackets all of history and extends in both directions past it. Your life sits inside a love that is older than the universe and will outlast it.

1

EPHESIANS 3:18-19

3

“May be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

Passes knowledge. Paul prays that you would know something that exceeds knowing. The love of Christ is not a subject you can finish studying. It is a dimension you can explore forever and never reach the edge of. The filling Paul prays for is the filling that comes from touching something too large to hold completely.

1

PSALM 36:7

4

“How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings.”

The shadow of Your wings. The image is protective and intimate at once — the chick under the parent’s wing, hidden and held. The lovingkindness of God is precious because it is close. Not admired from a distance but sheltered within.

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PSALM 63:3

“Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You.”

Better than life. David places the lovingkindness of God above the most valuable thing he owns. This is not poetic exaggeration. It is an honest hierarchy. The person who has experienced God’s love knows that everything else, even life itself, is secondary to it.

THE NATURE OF LOVE

The Nature of Love

Paul does not define love with an adjective. He defines it with what it does.

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1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8

“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.”

Paul does not define love with an adjective. He defines it with fifteen verbs. Love is what it does, not what it feels. Suffers long. Is kind. Does not seek its own. Endures all things. And then the final claim: love never fails. Not sometimes fails, not rarely fails. Never. The love described here is not human love at its best. It is the love of God given through us.

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1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

The greatest of these is love. Faith will one day be replaced by sight. Hope will one day be replaced by possession. But love — love continues. In eternity, where faith and hope have fulfilled their purpose, love remains. It is the one theological virtue that does not become redundant in heaven.

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1 JOHN 4:7

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Love is not merely a fruit of knowing God. It is evidence that you know Him. The person who loves — genuinely, sacrificially, as Scripture describes — is demonstrating something that only God can produce. Love between people is always, at its deepest, theological.

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1 JOHN 4:11

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

Ought to love. The love we give to others is not generated from our own warmth. It flows from the love God gave us. We love because He first loved us, and that love, once received, cannot stay contained. It moves through us toward the people around us.

2
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ROMANS 13:10

“Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”

Love is the fulfillment of the law. Every commandment — do not steal, do not lie, do not covet — is a specific application of the single principle of love. The person who genuinely loves their neighbor will not violate any of the commandments regarding them. Love does not abolish the law. It is what the law was always trying to produce.

LOVE IN ACTION

Love in Action

Love in Scripture is never merely a feeling. It is always something you do, and sometimes something it costs you.

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JOHN 15:13

“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”

Greater love has no one than this. Jesus draws the ceiling of love. The ultimate expression — the love that gives everything, that holds nothing back, that sacrifices the self entirely — is laying down your life. He said this the night before He did it. These are not abstract words. They are a preview.

2
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JOHN 15:12

“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

As I have loved you. The standard is not love as you feel comfortable, or love as the culture defines it, or love as you have received it from others. The standard is the love Jesus demonstrated. Which means the standard includes the cross. This is the most demanding commandment in Scripture, and it is the one He calls His own.

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GALATIANS 5:13

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

Through love serve one another. Freedom and service are not opposites in the kingdom of God. Freedom from the law is freedom to love — not to do whatever you want, but to give yourself away without compulsion. The freest person in any room is the one choosing to serve.

2
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EPHESIANS 5:2

“And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

Walk in love. Not feel love, not believe in love. Walk. The love Paul calls us to is a posture of life — the direction you move through every day. And the pattern is Christ, who gave Himself. The sacrifice was an aroma to God, which means love offered at cost is not waste. It is worship.

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COLOSSIANS 3:14

“But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”

Above all these things. Paul has just listed compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience. And then above all of them: love. Not as an additional item on the list but as the garment that holds all the others together. Love is the thread that makes the whole outfit a single piece.

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1 PETER 4:8

“And above all things have fervent love for one another, for ‘love will cover a multitude of sins.’”

Fervent love — the Greek is *ektenes*, meaning stretched out, strained, at full capacity. Not casual affection. Not polite regard. Love at full stretch, covering what needs to be covered. The community that loves this way does not become a place where sin is ignored. It becomes a place where it is absorbed rather than retaliated against.

THE TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS

The Two Great Commandments

Jesus reduces the entire law to two loves. Everything else is the application.

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MATTHEW 22:37-39

“Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

All your heart, all your soul, all your mind. Jesus asks for nothing held back. And the second commandment is like it — not second in importance, but second in order. Love for God that does not produce love for neighbor is incomplete. Love for neighbor without love for God has no root. Both grow from the same soil.

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MATTHEW 5:44

“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.”

Love your enemies. This is the most countercultural command Jesus ever gave. It is also the one that most clearly distinguishes kingdom love from ordinary human affection. Anyone can love those who love them back. The love Jesus describes is not produced by the other person’s behaviour. It comes from somewhere else entirely.

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LUKE 6:35

“But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.”

He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Jesus grounds the command to love enemies in the character of God, who does not calibrate His kindness to the gratitude of the recipient. When you love the undeserving, you are not doing something unusual. You are looking like your Father.

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ROMANS 12:9-10

“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.”

Without hypocrisy. Real love cannot be performed. As soon as love becomes a performance — something you display rather than something you are — it has become hypocrisy. The love Paul describes here is visible precisely because it is honest. It shows up in who you give preference to.

LOVE AS WITNESS

Love as Witness

The love Christians have for each other is one of the most powerful arguments for the gospel.

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JOHN 13:34-35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

By this all will know. Jesus does not say they will know you are His disciples by your theology, your church attendance, or your moral standards. He says they will know by the love you have for one another. The love of the community is meant to be so visible, so distinctive, that it functions as the primary witness to the world.

3
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1 JOHN 3:18

“My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.”

In deed and in truth. Love that stays in the realm of intention or declaration is not yet love in the full sense. John draws the line clearly: the test of love is not what you say you feel. It is what you do. Genuine love is always made of action.

3
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1 JOHN 3:16

“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

By this we know love. John defines love the same way Jesus did — by the cross. We know what love looks like because we have seen what it cost. And we also ought: the love that was shown to us becomes the pattern for what we show. The cross is not just the definition of love. It is the call to imitate it.

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JAMES 2:8

“If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you do well.”

The royal law. James calls the love command a royal law — it belongs to the King, it stands above other laws, it governs the whole of human relationship. To love your neighbor as yourself is not one commandment among many. It is the commandment that gives the others their meaning.

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PROVERBS 17:17

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”

At all times. Not when it is convenient, not when the other person is easy to love, not when the relationship is going well. At all times. The love that holds only in pleasant seasons is not the love this verse is describing. True love is tested in adversity and found still present.

LOVE BETWEEN PEOPLE

Love Between People

Scripture does not spiritualise away human love. It takes it seriously and places it high.

3
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SONG OF SOLOMON 8:6-7

“Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised.”

Love is as strong as death. The Song of Solomon places human love at full scale — comparing it to the most powerful force the ancient world knew. Many waters cannot quench it. Floods cannot drown it. This is not sentiment. It is a claim about the nature of genuine love: it is not extinguished by opposition or difficulty. It endures.

3
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RUTH 1:16-17

“But Ruth said: ‘Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried.’”

Ruth says this to her mother-in-law after her husband’s death, when Naomi is urging her to leave. This is love that costs something visible — her homeland, her people, her future prospects. It is also one of the most beautiful declarations of commitment in all of Scripture. Love is not just a feeling between two people. Ruth shows it is a chosen loyalty.

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PROVERBS 10:12

“Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins.”

Love covers all sins. Not ignores them, not pretends they did not happen. Covers — bears the weight of them rather than broadcasting them, absorbs the damage rather than returning it. Love has a load-bearing capacity that hatred cannot match. Where hatred amplifies every fault, love has the capacity to carry what hatred would throw.

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ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.”

Two are better than one. The love that holds two people together creates something neither has alone: the capacity to carry each other when one falls. God designed human beings to need each other, and the love that meets that need is not weakness. It is wisdom built into the structure of creation.

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1 CORINTHIANS 16:14

“Let all that you do be done with love.”

All that you do. Not all your religious acts. Not your obvious acts of service. All of it — the ordinary, the routine, the daily, the unnoticed. If love is the motivation, then no action is small. The love that attends the ordinary is the love that shapes a life.

LOVING GOD IN RESPONSE

Loving God in Response

Our love for God is always an answer, never the opening move.

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JOHN 4:19

“We love Him because He first loved us.”

He first loved us. The order is not incidental. You do not climb toward God through the discipline of love. You receive God’s love and find that love for Him grows in response. The initiative is always His. Which means when love feels hard, the answer is not to try harder. It is to return to what He first gave you.

4
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DEUTERONOMY 6:5

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

With all your heart, all your soul, all your strength. Moses says this to an entire nation, not just to people of exceptional religious feeling. The command is to bring every faculty, every emotion, every capacity into the love of God. It is the total-person offering that Scripture asks for.

4
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PSALM 31:23

“Oh, love the Lord, all you His saints! For the Lord preserves the faithful, and fully repays the proud person.”

Oh, love the Lord. The exclamation carries genuine feeling — this is not a cold instruction but a warm invitation. David calls God’s people to love from a place of having experienced what God’s faithfulness looks like. The love he advocates is learned from the track record of the One he is advocating for.

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PSALM 18:1

“I will love You, O Lord, my strength.”

I will love You. The declaration of love toward God is an act of the will before it is an emotion. David commits to love, addresses God directly, names Him as his strength in the same breath. Love for God and dependence on God are not separate. The One you love is the One you rely on.

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ROMANS 8:28

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

To those who love God. The promise is not unconditional in the sense of applying to everyone. It applies to those who love God — and love here is not sentiment but orientation, the fundamental direction of a life. For those whose lives are pointed toward Him, nothing falls outside the scope of His working.

4
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DEUTERONOMY 7:9

“Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.”

For a thousand generations. The covenant love of God toward those who love Him is not exhausted by a generation or a century. It passes through families, through time, through history. The faithfulness that reached your ancestors is the same faithfulness reaching you.

4
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JOHN 14:21

“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

I will manifest Myself to him. The person who loves Jesus — demonstrated through keeping His commandments — receives a specific gift: the self-revelation of Christ. Love and obedience together open something that neither opens alone. God discloses Himself to those who are faithful in their love.

WHEN LOVE PRODUCES DEVOTION

When Love Produces Devotion

Love for God that grows from experience is the most durable kind.

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PSALM 116:1

“I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice and my supplications.”

I love the Lord, because. The love is grounded in experience. Not love as an abstract religious duty but love as the response to a God who heard, who answered, who was present when called upon. The record of answered prayer is one of the primary engines of love toward God.

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PSALM 97:10

“You who love the Lord, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.”

You who love the Lord, hate evil. Love and hatred are not opposites in Scripture. Love for God produces a corresponding hatred of what opposes Him. The two cannot be separated. The person who claims to love God while being indifferent to evil has misunderstood both the God they claim to love and the nature of love itself.

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PSALM 145:20

“The Lord preserves all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy.”

Preserves all who love Him. The love of God toward those who love Him is not merely emotional. It is protective. He keeps them. The love between God and His people is a two-directional keeping: they keep His commandments, and He keeps them.

THE HARDEST LOVE

The Hardest Love

Loving those who have wronged you is where love becomes most costly and most Christlike.

5
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MATTHEW 5:43-44

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you.”

But I say to you. Jesus does not merely extend the definition of love. He reverses the intuition. The natural human tendency is to calibrate love to what is deserved. Jesus removes that calibration entirely. The love He commands is not earned by the recipient. It flows from the character of the giver.

5
2

LUKE 6:27

“But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.”

Do good to those who hate you. Love of enemies is not a feeling you try to work up. It is an action you take while the feeling is absent. Do good. The action precedes the emotion, and often the action, sustained over time, eventually produces something closer to the feeling.

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ROMANS 12:10

“Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.”

In honor giving preference to one another. This is love expressed as practical deference — letting the other person go first, considering their interest before your own. It is one of the most ordinary and most demanding applications of love. It happens in traffic, in conversation, at the dinner table.

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ROMANS 12:20-21

“Therefore ‘if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Overcome evil with good. The way love defeats opposition is not by returning it. Love overwhelms enmity by refusing to become it. The person who feeds their hungry enemy is not being passive. They are applying the most powerful force available — goodness in place of retaliation.

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1 PETER 1:22

“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart.”

Fervently with a pure heart. Fervent suggests strain, extension, effort at full stretch. And pure heart — not love mixed with agenda, not love that expects a return. The love Peter calls for is the love that gives without calculating what comes back.

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HEBREWS 10:24

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.”

Stir up love. Love can be stirred — which means love can grow cold and need attention. The community of faith is responsible for provoking one another to love, for keeping the fire going in each other. You are not only responsible for your own love. You are partly responsible for the love around you.

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1 THESSALONIANS 3:12

“And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you.”

Increase and abound. Paul prays for love that grows — not love that holds steady at a respectable level, but love that keeps expanding. The love of the community is not meant to plateau. It is meant to overflow its current banks and reach beyond the people already inside it.

GROWING IN LOVE

Growing in Love

Love does not stay the same. It grows, deepens, and becomes wiser.

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PHILIPPIANS 1:9

“And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment.”

Love abounding in knowledge and discernment. Love without wisdom can be naive, enabling, or misdirected. Paul prays for love that grows smarter as it grows larger — love that knows how to love well, that can read a situation, that discerns what is genuinely helpful rather than what merely feels loving.

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2 THESSALONIANS 1:3

“We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other.”

The love of every one of you all abounds. Paul notices and celebrates the mutual love of an entire community. This is not one or two exceptional people. Every one of you all — comprehensive, abundant, growing. This is the kind of community love makes possible and the kind of love community makes visible.

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GALATIANS 5:6

“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.”

Faith working through love. The engine of the Christian life is faith. The output of that faith is love. Faith that does not produce love is not yet the faith Paul is describing. And love that does not flow from faith in Christ has a different root. The two are inseparable when both are genuine.

6
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TITUS 2:4

“That they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children.”

Admonish the young women to love. The love of marriage and family is something that can be taught, modelled, grown. It does not arrive automatically with vows or with birth. It is a craft that older, experienced people pass on to younger ones. Love in the home is one of the most important and most learnable skills a community can share.

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EPHESIANS 5:25

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.”

As Christ loved the church. The standard Paul gives for a husband’s love is the cross. Not cultural affection, not emotional warmth alone, but the love that gives itself away, that prioritises the other, that lays down its own preferences for the flourishing of the beloved. This is the most demanding love command in domestic life.

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EPHESIANS 5:28

“So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.”

As their own bodies. Paul grounds marital love in the ordinary instinct of self-care and redirects it outward. The husband who loves his wife as his own body will attend to her wellbeing with the same consistency and care he gives to his own. Love in marriage is not extraordinary sentiment. It is the every-day care applied to another person.

LOVE IN THE HOME

Love in the Home

The love of Scripture begins in families. What happens at the dinner table matters as much as what happens at the altar.

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PROVERBS 31:26

“She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness.”

The law of kindness. The ideal woman in Proverbs is not just competent or industrious. She speaks with the law of kindness — a habitual gentleness so consistent it has become a governing principle. Love shows up in the words you use before it shows up in the grand gestures.

6
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PSALM 127:3

“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward.”

A heritage from the Lord. Children are not accidents or possessions. They are gifts, entrusted. The love of parent for child in Scripture is always tinged with this awareness: they belong first to God, who gave them. To love a child well is to raise them toward the One who made them.

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PROVERBS 3:12

“For whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.”

Whom the Lord loves He corrects. Correction and love are not opposites. They travel together — in the best parents, in the best teachers, in God. The love that never corrects is not protecting the beloved. It is withholding something they need. Discipline is one of the forms love takes when it cares more about who you are becoming than about whether you like it right now.

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HEBREWS 12:6

“For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.”

Every son whom He receives. The chastening is the proof of the relationship, not the evidence of its absence. When life is hard in ways that feel like correction, the inclination is to conclude that God is absent or angry. Scripture says the opposite: the one being shaped is the one being loved.

LOVE THAT DOES NOT GIVE UP

Love That Does Not Give Up

The most astonishing love in Scripture is the love that returns to the unfaithful.

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HOSEA 2:19-20

“I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy; I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the Lord.”

I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. God speaks these words to a people who had been unfaithful to Him, who had chased other gods, who had broken the covenant. His response is not rejection. It is a renewed betrothal, unconditional, comprehensive, offered to the one who had already proved themselves unworthy of it. This is what grace looks like.

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LUKE 15:20

“And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.”

A great way off, his father saw him. The father did not wait for the son to arrive at the door and make his speech. He saw him coming from a distance and ran. This is the posture of God toward every returning prodigal: watching for them long before they arrive, already running before they can explain themselves.

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MICAH 7:18

“Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy.”

He delights in mercy. Not tolerates it, not grudgingly extends it. Delights. Mercy is not the exception to God’s character or the reluctant concession of a justice-first God. It is the expression of His delight. He forgives because forgiving is one of His great joys.

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ISAIAH 1:18

“‘Come now, and let us reason together,’ says the Lord, ‘though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.’”

Let us reason together. God does not issue a verdict from a distance. He invites dialogue — come, let us reason. And the reasoning ends with restoration. Scarlet to white, crimson to wool. The love of God is not deterred by the colour of what you have done. It is stronger than the stain.

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1 JOHN 1:9

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Faithful and just to forgive. God’s forgiveness is not a generous exception to justice. It is consistent with justice — because Christ has already paid what justice required. The love that forgives does so on solid ground, not by looking away. It forgives because the debt has been met.

LOVE THAT TRANSFORMS

Love That Transforms

When God’s love is genuinely received, it changes everything about a person.

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2 CORINTHIANS 5:14

“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died.”

The love of Christ compels us. Not motivates — compels. The Greek word is *sunecho*: to press together, to constrain, to leave no room for any other direction. The love of Christ is not one factor among others in Paul’s decision-making. It is the force that determines every other direction his life takes.

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GALATIANS 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Who loved me and gave Himself for me. Paul makes it personal. Not loved the world in the abstract, not loved humanity in general. Loved me. Gave Himself for me. The gospel is not a message about categories of people. It is a love letter addressed to a person — to the one reading this right now.

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ROMANS 5:5

“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

Poured out in our hearts. The love of God is not something you observe from the outside or reason your way toward. The Holy Spirit pours it into you — an interior flooding, not an external observation. The capacity to love and to feel loved is itself a gift the Spirit brings.

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2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us. The exchange at the cross is the definitive act of love in all of history. The sinless One takes the sin. The sinful ones receive the righteousness. This is not merely a legal transaction. It is love doing the most costly thing imaginable.

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TITUS 3:4-5

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“But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.”

The kindness and the love of God toward man appeared. The incarnation is described here as the appearance of God’s love — the moment love took a form that could be seen and touched and followed. The love of God was always present. In Christ, it became visible.

LOVE: THE LAST WORD**Love: The Last Word**

The entire sweep of Scripture — from creation to the new creation — is a love story.

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REVELATION 1:5

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“And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.”

To Him who loved us. The first thing John says about Jesus in his letter to the churches is not His power or His authority, though both are real. It is His love. The primary identity of the risen, reigning Christ, in John’s mind, is the One who loved us. That is where he starts.

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REVELATION 21:3-4

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“And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”

God Himself will be with them. The destination of all history, the end toward which all creation moves, is not a place but a presence. God with His people. Every tear wiped — personally, tenderly, by the hand of God Himself. The love that began the story is the love that ends it. And it ends well.

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REVELATION 22:17

“And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. The final invitation of Scripture. Come. Whoever desires. Freely. The last word of the Bible is not a warning or a verdict. It is an open door. The love that has been telling its story across sixty-six books ends with its arms still open. The invitation is still standing.

Eighty witnesses across two testaments — a father running down a road, an apostle searching every category of existence and finding nothing strong enough to cut the connection, a shepherd boy writing songs in caves, and a risen Christ with arms still open at the very last page — all telling the same story:

You are loved. Not because of what you have done. Not because of who you are. Because of who He is.

The invitation at the end of Scripture is the same one that has been standing since the beginning. Come.

A CLOSING PRAYER

*Lord, I have read these words about love.
Now let them do what words alone cannot —
let them find the part of me that still doubts
that I am worth being loved like this.
Speak into that place.
Pour Your love into my heart by Your Spirit.
And let what I receive from You
flow freely to everyone around me.*

Amen.

* God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him *