

END-TIMES ISSUES



#100 Commandment #6 – Love and command.

GOD DOESN'T TELL US TO KNOW ALL THE END-TIME DETAILS. HE TELLS US TO **BE READY.**

**A
N
D
B
E
Y
O
N
D
I**

LOVE AND THE 10 COMMANDMENTS



- ⇒ The Ten Commandments are summarized as "Love for God and neighbor." Yet Love itself is a command!
- ⇒ The type of love that God requires is a **choice**, not a *feeling*. It's an act of the *will*, not an *emotion*.
- ⇒ It is only through Scripture that we can find out the nature of this love, so that we can express it properly. Otherwise, it will *not* be the type of love that God requires – the type that summarizes the Ten Commandments.
- ⇒ We *cannot* have this type of love, if we choose to *ignore* the Ten Commandments. This love is *incompatible* with any other type of conduct!

BY NATURE, WE CAN'T DO IT!

- Choosing to love the way God requires ...
- Choosing to obey the commandments ... } **WE CAN'T DO IT!**
- We are powerless.** It goes against human nature, which is dead in sin (Ephesians 2:1; Romans 8:7-8).
- God takes spiritually dead rebels and changes them** into people who are willing – and eager – to repent, trust him, love him, and submit to his will. This is a demonstration of his mercy and grace.
 - ✓ All this is a purely undeserved expression of God's love, which is accomplished through the Word of Truth (Scripture), Jesus' work on the cross, and the Spirit's work in our hearts.
 - ✓ This is called "grace" – "undeserved kindness."
- God embeds within us both the desire and the ability to obey the moral law.** This influences our values and choices. He also pours his love into us, and it flows out to others, through us.

And **you were dead** in your trespasses and sins, ...
... by nature children of wrath.

But because of His great love for us, **God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive** with Christ even when we were dead in our trespasses. **It is by grace you have been saved!**

Ephesians 2:1, 3b-5 (BSB)

- Our #1 duty is to **trust God/Jesus**, who makes all this possible. And once we do this, *he* will enable us to do the rest.

Jesus replied, "**The work of God** is this: to **believe [= trust]** in the One He has sent."

John 6:29 (BSB)

In the end, we will realize that even our **trust** was made possible by God. And we will give him credit for our salvation, from **start to finish**.

- Even our faith is by grace!** It's a work of God in the hearts of spiritually *dead* people. He does this work, so that...
- By grace, we can do good works.** We become capable of *living-out the good works* he has prepared for us to do.

For it is **by grace you have been saved** through **faith**, and **this not from yourselves; it is the gift of God, not by works**, so that no one can boast.

For we are God's workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus to do good works**, which God prepared in advance as our way of life.

Ephesians 2:8-10 (BSB)

We don't have to question whether or not God is doing a work of grace in us. *Just make your decision to choose to trust (or not trust) God. Your choice will become the answer to that question!*

WARNING: If you're considering a "YES" answer to following God, make sure you're making the decision on the right foundation!

DANGER

Make sure your faith is based on God's Word!

- Many people use tricks, techniques, emotions, half-truths, and other manipulative practices, to get you to make a "decision" for Christ ...

... and what you're actually doing is responding to the manipulation of your emotions, feelings, etc.

This type of "faith"
– created by human manipulation, tricks and techniques –
does not come from God and cannot save you!

Consider these Scripture passages...

These are just a few of *many* passages, randomly selected, that show us the necessity of *Scripture* for salvation. A few warn us against tricks and manipulation, as well as distortion of the Word. Many other passages, not included here, warn us against false teachers. (These are *summaries*; the references are included, so you can examine them yourself.)

- The gospel is the power of God for salvation, for everyone who believes; for it reveals the righteousness of God that comes by faith from start to finish – Romans 1:16-17.
- Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ – Romans 10:17.
- By this gospel (preached by the apostle Paul) you are saved, if you hold firmly to it; otherwise, you have believed in vain – 1 Corinthians 15:2.
- We are not like those who peddle the word of God for profit – 2 Corinthians 2:17.

The word "gospel" refers to the "good news" about salvation through Jesus Christ.

7

- We have renounced secret and shameful ways. We do not practice deceit, nor do we distort the word of God – 1 Corinthians 4:2.
- You were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were sealed in him with the promised Holy Spirit – Ephesians 1:13.
- When you received the word of God, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as the true word of God—the word which is now at work in you who believe – 1 Thessalonians 2:13.
- Make every effort to present yourself as one who accurately handles the word of truth – 2 Timothy 2:15.
- The word of God is living and active... It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart – Hebrews 4:12.
- God chose to give us birth through the word of truth – James 1:18.
- For you have been born again ... through the living and enduring word of God – 1 Peter 1:23.

8

>>> Now What??? <<<

Suppose you *have* repented and trusted God;
you *have* rejected the world's values;
you *do* want to follow Jesus, and do his will...



- Obviously, the more you are like Jesus, the more the world is going to hate you.
- Our focus is going to be on what happens *inside* you – the things that make it possible for you to love God and neighbor, and to obey God's commandments.

9

FIRST: WHAT HAPPENED ALREADY – WHEN WE BEGAN TO TRUST GOD?

- As an **unsaved person**: People often talk about God's love for sinners. But the problem is this: **Our sin has placed a barrier between us and God** – a barrier that *prevents* us from experiencing the full extent of his love.

He still gives us blessings that we *don't* deserve, and he continues to *patiently* offer us an opportunity to repent... though that opportunity must eventually come to an end – Matthew 5:45; Acts 14:17; 2 Peter 3:9; Romans 2:5.



For **God so loved the world** that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 (BSB)

10

- As long as that **sin barrier is in place** – the barrier we put there – we will not be *willing* to trust (believe) the Good News. In fact, we actually *hate* the light (= the truth), because it exposes our sin (John 3:19-20). So we remain under condemnation.

... whoever does not believe **has already been condemned**, because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

... **the wrath of God remains on him.**

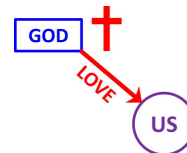
John 3:18b, 36b (BSB)

- Nevertheless, some of us *do* trust Jesus and *do* begin to follow him. How could this be? It is true that we chose to follow him. But sooner or later, we realize that it was *God* who removed the barrier. **It was God who had mercy on us!**

... **he saved us**, not because of the righteous things we had done, but **because of his mercy.**

Titus 3:5a (NLT)

11



God made possible what we couldn't do (and didn't want to do). He removed the barrier between us and him!

Now we can become recipients of the *fullness* of his love!

But God proves **His love for us** in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8 (BSB)

This is love: not that we loved God, but that **he loved us** and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 John 4:10 (NIV)

However, God doesn't send us his love so that it can sit, soak and sour inside us. If it's there, it will express itself in and through us.

12

WE NEED TO FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE, AND LOVE OTHERS!

Dear friends, **since God so loved us** [= sacrificially, v. 10],
we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:11 (NIV)

Beloved, **let us love** one another, **because love comes from God.**

1 John 4:7a (BSB)

- *If he loved us in this manner, we need to follow his example and love people!*

These verses are worded in a way that lets people choose how they want to respond.

- ✓ Those who *have* this love in them will choose to obey these verses.
- ✓ Those who *do not have* God's love in them won't obey them.

★ So how do we do this? How do we express this love? ★

13

WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF THIS LOVE. It's *different* from the type of "love" the world offers.

THIS TYPE OF LOVE:

- It refers to a **commitment** that does not depend on the other individual. It is an act of the *mind* and *will*. It involves facts and commands, and our response to them. It is not about *emotions* and *feelings* – which often contradict facts, and which change with changing circumstances.
- It involves **placing others ahead of self** – sacrificially, if necessary (as Jesus demonstrated).
- It expresses itself by **obeying the Ten Commandments**. There is nothing a person can do that contradicts the Ten Commandments, and *still* be this type of love (though it might be the *world's* type of love).
- It is **totally foreign to unsaved people** (though they may counterfeit it in some superficial ways).

14

ONE ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION:

"God is love" (1 John 4:8, 16); but "**love**" is not "**God**."

- Love is an inherent part of God's nature. It's not something he invented, but is a fundamental characteristic of his being.
- However, love is not the *only* characteristic. God is also holy, just, and so much more. All of these coexist 100% in God – with *holiness* being given the greatest dominance in Scripture. (We could describe holiness as the foundation that all the other characteristics are built on.)
- To say that "love is God" is a distortion. God's nature defines *love*. We don't define God, based on our view of what "love" is! (This also tends to downplay or deny all of his other characteristics.)
- Admittedly, some people may say this without knowing what they're implying. But this is a favorite saying of certain cults and false religions that attempt to "springboard" off Christianity.

15

THIS TYPE OF LOVE HAS ALWAYS BEEN REQUIRED BY GOD – in both Old and New Testaments.

- When Jesus described the two greatest **commandments**, he quoted the *Old Testament* to show our obligation to love.
- This type of love is an **act of obedience to a command!** It is also connected to the teaching of the Law and the prophets.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.
[You must] **love your neighbor** as yourself.

Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18b (NIV); see also Lev. 19:34.

[Jesus] said to him, "**Love** the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important **command**. The second is like it: **Love** your neighbor as yourself. [All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two **commands**."

Matthew 22:37-40 (CSB)

16

THIS TYPE OF LOVE REQUIRES A CHANGED HEART – CHANGED BY GOD.

- In the **Old Testament**, this necessary change was described with the symbolism of circumcision, applied to the *heart*. Moses mentioned both our responsibility, and what God would do:

WHAT PEOPLE ARE TO DO:

Circumcise your hearts, ...
[The obligation to **love** is mentioned in the context.]

Deuteronomy 10:16a (BSB)

WHAT GOD WOULD DO:

The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts ... and you will **love** Him...

Deuteronomy 30:6a (BSB)

EXPLANATION:

Abraham trusted and obeyed God, and was given circumcision as a *sign* of that trust and obedience – a sign that was to be done by his offspring for the generations to come. Yet being a *sign*, it pointed to an *internal* heart attitude that *also* needed to exist. (In Abraham's case, it did exist; but in most of the people's hearts, there was *no* change.)

The above verses point out both what *we* are to do, and what *God* does. Our job is to *obey*... and our *choice* will align with what God does in us. *Since it's a serious matter, take it seriously and respond seriously!*

17

- In the **New Testament**, this necessary change is described in terms of: ① *Our* need to repent, trust and obey, and ② the heart change that *God* gives us, under the *New Covenant*. Yet it represents the *same change* as did the Old Testament concept of "circumcised hearts."

WHAT PEOPLE ARE TO DO:

... **turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.**
... [called] to the **obedience that comes from faith** ...

Acts 20:21b; Romans 1:5b (NIV)

WHAT GOD WOULD DO:

"I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds."

Hebrews 10:16b (NIV)

- The obligation to *love* is found in other passages. The change described here makes that love possible.

18

HOW DOES THIS KIND OF LOVE OCCUR?

- We will look at the way the apostle John describes it. He focuses on the word "love," and he connects this love with obeying God's commands/commandments (the New Testament Greek word can be translated either way).

- Here is an overview of what John teaches us:

God offers to change us. He offers us his love.

- ↳ He does so for a purpose: So that we can love (with genuine love that comes from God).
- ↳ When we offer this love to others, it is God's love that we offer. (In our own nature, we didn't have any love to offer.)
- ↳ This love, if present, will also be offered back to God. This expression of love will include obedience to God's commandments.

- We've already seen the starting point: **God offered his love to us, while we were still his enemies.**

19

The SOURCE of this love.

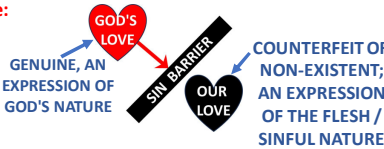
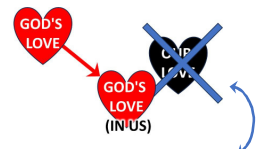
... love comes from God.

1 John 4:7b (BSB)

- This love is not something that is produced by our human nature. (We need to emphasize this.)
 - ✓ Why? Because we (*having been born as sinners and rebels against God*) don't have any genuine love to offer!
- Genuine love is from God, and is defined by God's nature. It is *not compatible* with the sinful nature/flesh... and cannot exist in a person who hasn't repented and turned to God.
 - ✓ God replaces our "love" (fake or non-existent) with his love.
- We, as sinners, tend to deceive ourselves, about our own love. We may be convinced that our love is genuine. Sin has influenced our values and perspectives, so we do not see things as they really are.
 - ✓ We *won't* see things the way they really are, unless we are willing to let the message of God's Word *change* the way we think.

20

Two types of love:

- This is our condition, before we are saved:
 
- This is the way God changes us:
 
- In this present life, our old nature (or "self") still tries to express itself. If we take our eyes off Jesus, it may succeed. If we sin, we will respond to it with sorrow and repentance; but it may still cause negative consequences that we (and others) have to experience.

21

Being aware that the love described by John is the type that comes from God...

... love comes from God.

1 John 4:7b (BSB)

What will happen if this love is in us?

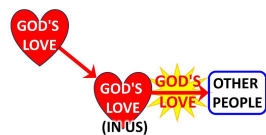
- We already know the obligation! This love needs to express itself.
 - ... we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:11 (NIV)
 - ... let us love one another ... 1 John 4:7a (BSB)

These verses are an expression of God's will.

- ✓ Is the desire to do God's will *embedded in your heart* (as Hebrews 10:16 says it is, in saved people)?
- ✓ Or do you prefer to do things *your own way*?

22

Our (God's) love for other people:



NOTE: The emphasis in 1 John is on love for fellow Christians ("brothers"). But as we look throughout the Scriptures, we realize that this love is *also* to be extended to *unsaved* people.

- If this love is flowing through us to other people (as we know it must), what does that mean?
 - ⇒ It becomes evidence/proof of 3 things!

FIRST: We must remember that *we cannot see God*.

So how can we know if God is in us? It's NOT by feelings, but by what we do – elsewhere called the "fruit of the Spirit."

John tells us...

[God], whom no one has seen or can see.

1 Timothy 6:16b (NIV)

God is spirit ...

John 4:24a (NIV)

23

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

1 John 4:12 (NIV)

①⇒ It becomes evidence/proof that the invisible God is living in us.

- ✓ The proof isn't "feelings," but "fact" – the fact that his love is flowing through us.

②⇒ It becomes evidence/proof that the invisible God's love is "made complete" in us.

- ✓ This refers to maturity, completion. Some translations use the phrase "made perfect." God's love is accomplishing its purpose – not only in the way it flows to others, but also in the way it changes us. (This is also called "salvation.")
- ✓ This concept is related to what Jesus said, when he accomplished our salvation on the cross: "It is finished!" (John 19:30).

This refers to GOD's love that he has placed within us. It needs to be made complete in us!

24

Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.
1 John 4:7b (NIV)

③ ⇒ **It also is evidence/proof that we are born of God and know God.**

- ✓ Scripture has a lot to say about these concepts. They have to do with the total change that occurs in our nature, when God changes us. It's like getting a new set of "spiritual genetics"! We are no longer *by nature* objects of God's wrath (Ephesians 2:3). We are now "children of God"!

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.
1 John 4:8 (NIV)

① ⇒ **In contrast, if a person does NOT have this love, it becomes evidence/proof that they do NOT know God.** They are NOT saved.

- ✓ Remember that "God is love" does not contradict his holiness and justice, or ignore the wrath that we deserve, if we reject him.

This refers to GOD's love that he has placed within us.

EVIDENCE / PROOF that:
1. We do not know God.

WE MAY CLAIM GOD'S LOVE IS IN US

God's love NOT flowing through us.

THE REALITY IS THIS

There might be a **fake love**; but it's not GOD's love.

IF THIS DESCRIBES YOU, don't automatically give-up and quit. Pursue again the kingdom of God, and don't stop. Let Scripture *change* your values and conduct... and eventually your love. Admit your inability; learn God's promise, that he will *enable* those who are willing to trust and follow him. Humble yourself in the presence of God. And take seriously *your* responsibility before God.

EVIDENCE / PROOF that:
1. The invisible God is living in us.
2. His love is made complete in us.
3. We are born of God and know God.

THE EVIDENCE.

How do we know that our love is genuine – i.e., from God?

Or to say it another way:
How do we know that we aren't just deceiving ourselves into thinking that the love is actually from God?

HOW DO WE KNOW IT IS REAL??

⇒ How do we know that our love is genuine – i.e., from God?

⇒ How do we know that we aren't just deceiving ourselves into thinking that the love is actually from God?

- ★ God does not leave us guessing, or relying on "feelings" and "hope-so's."
- ★ He gives us objective, visible **FACTS** to base our "assurance of salvation" on.
- ★ We can know **with certainty** that we are NOT among the deceived.

GOD'S LOVE – IF IT IS PRESENT – WILL "RESONATE" BOTH WAYS: toward people *and* toward God.

⇒ If our love for **PEOPLE** is genuine, we will also be willing to love **GOD**!

By this we know that we **love** the children of God: whenever we **love** God...
1 John 5:2a (NET)

And how do we **KNOW** we love God?
⇒ When we choose to **KEEP (= OBEY)** his **COMMANDMENTS**!

... and **obey** his **commandments**.*
1 John 5:2 (NET)

For this is the **love** of God: that we **keep [= obey]** his **commandments**.*
1 John 5:3a (NET)

* (Translations will use either "commands" or "commandments.")

- ★ Love for people involves living according to God's **commandments**. But God's commandments are also wrapped up into one commandment: **love** (directed toward God and people)!

I urge you ... that we **love** one another.
And this is **love**, that we **walk according to** His **commandments**.
This is the very **commandment** you have heard from the beginning, that you must **walk in love**.
2 John 1:5b-6 (BSB)

- ★ By "commandments," John refers to **all** that God commands us. Though he does not say "Ten Commandments," all that God commands is *represented* by the Ten Commandments. He will never contradict them.
- ✓ Once these commands are internalized (which occurs as the Holy Spirit uses Scripture to teach us), there is no need to *count* them! Knowing the *Ten* Commandments is best for learning God's ways; but the number is not so important when applying what was learned... when the motivation comes from the heart.

- Our willingness to keep (obey) God's commandments is the evidence that God's **love** has been perfected in us (as it *needs* to be).

By this we can be sure that we have come to know Him:
if we **keep** His **commandments**.

... if anyone **keeps His word**, the **love** of God has been truly perfected [= made complete] in him. By this we know that we are in Him: Whoever claims to abide in Him must walk as Jesus walked.

1 John 2:3, 5-6 (CSB)

- Suppose we claim to know God, but **DON'T** obey his commandments? God calls us a **liar**! Any "love" we might claim to have is **FAKE**.

If anyone says, "I know Him," but **does not keep** His **commandments**, he is a **liar**, and the truth is not in him.

1 John 2:4 (CSB)

What if we have this perfected love, evidenced by obedience?

- If we have this type of love, **we have no need to fear the future!** By following Jesus, **he** has enabled **God's love** to become **complete** (mature) in us. ⇔ ⇔ **This is the basis for "assurance of salvation"!**

This is how love is made complete [mature] among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But **perfect [mature] love** drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made **perfect [complete/perfect] in love.**

1 John 4:17-18 (NIV)

If this represents our lives:

this is the evidence that God's love is truly in us ... and the evidence that we are saved.

Jesus has the same focus!

- Jesus also tells us that there is a direct connection between love and obedience to his commands.

"If you **love** me, you will **obey** my **commandments**."

John 14:15 (NET)

(See also vs. 23-24, where Jesus describes this love as keeping (obeying) his words/teachings.)

- When *John* says that whoever claims to abide in Jesus must "walk as Jesus walked" (1 John 2:6), he is saying *the same thing that Jesus said*:

"If anyone wants to come after Me, **he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me**. ... And whoever does not carry his cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple."

Luke 9:23b; 14:27 (BSB)

- More than that, Jesus *guarantees* that such people will be saved!

My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and **they follow Me**. I give them eternal life, and **they will never perish.**

John 10:27-28a (BSB)

Not there yet?

- Has your love reached that point** where you can say with *honest confidence* that God's love has been "made perfect" in you – *based on the evidence of obedience to his commands*?
 - There may be times when we *aren't* so sure that we are even saved – much less having a "perfect" (mature) love. (This can happen if we get our eyes off Jesus and fall into sin.)
- We can be glad that salvation is based on the grace of God**, not on how "confident" or "assured" we feel! The Christian life is a *growing* process... and we haven't reached the end of the process yet!
 - Every time you start to "fall away," turn your eyes back to Jesus and back to his Word. Pursue love and obedience, trusting him for the power to do so!

The need to grow is serious... The need to follow is serious... But the grace of God is also serious!

He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6b (BSB)

OUR MISSION:

In this series, our focus is on the "obedience to command" issue.

But we must never forget the *grace* that makes this obedience possible, ...

... and the *love* from God that flows through us ...

...and results in our love for God and neighbor, and obedience to his commands.

All that God commands us to do is summarized by the Ten Commandments. Our job is to learn the application of these commandments to *all* of life, and to learn how to apply them to our specific situations.

And to let God make them internal to our hearts.

TEN COMMANDMENTS

Credits

LOVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

SCRIPTURE

- Scriptures marked "NLT" – Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.
- Scriptures marked "NIV" – Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. (www.biblica.com)
- Scriptures marked "NET" – The Scriptures quoted are from the NET Bible® https://netbible.com copyright ©1996, 2019 used with permission from Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. All rights reserved.
- Scriptures marked "CSB" – Scripture quotations marked CSB have been taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright ©2020 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.
- Scriptures marked "BSB" – Taken from The Holy Bible, Berean Standard Bible, BSB; Public Domain (CC BY NC ND). https://bereanbible.com/

PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Brick wall – GDJ / CC0; via opencolourart.org: https://opencolourart.org/detail/227630/brick-texture
- Globe with lit fuse – GDJ / CC0; via opencolourart.org: https://opencolourart.org/detail/219655/political-map-earth-globe-bomb
- Ten Commandments – J-Elle, CC BY-SA 4.0 ->https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/, via Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mus%C3%A9e_Hermitage_Matthieu-Juda%C3%A9me_(2).jpg
- Question marks – GDJ / CC0; via opencolourart.org: https://opencolourart.org/detail/252554/prismatic-question-mark-fractal-9-no-background
- Cross symbol - aaroniojesus / CC0; via opencolourart.org: https://opencolourart.org/detail/23380/cross

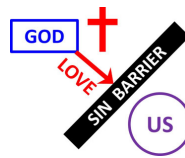
Presentation – Dennis Hinks © 2025.

Here is a summary of the various diagrams:

TWO TYPES OF PEOPLE:

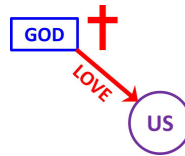
The unsaved person.

Our sin is a *barrier* between us and God, that prevents us from experiencing the full extent of his love.



The saved person.

God has removed the barrier we didn't want to remove (and don't *deserve* having removed). Now we can experience his love.



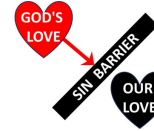
37

TWO TYPES OF LOVE:

- ✓ God's love – It's genuine; an expression of God's nature.
God's nature defines love.
- ✓ Our love – It's counterfeit or non-existent; an expression of the flesh/sinful nature.

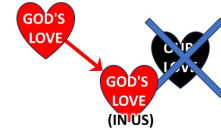
The unsaved person.

Only capable of having the fake "love" that the flesh (or sinful nature) produces.



The saved person.

With the sin barrier removed, God's love is in us. In this present life, the old nature will continue to express itself; and we must fight it (with God's power).



38

THE EFFECTS OF GOD'S LOVE:

The unsaved person.

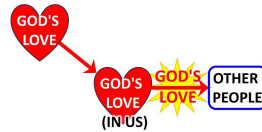
[This love does not exist in the unsaved person.]

If this characterizes our lives, it becomes evidence/proof that:

1. We do not know God.

The saved person.

If God's love is in us, it will want to express itself. It will flow through us toward other people.
This will influence how we act.



If this characterizes our lives, it becomes evidence/proof that:

1. The invisible God is living in us.
2. The invisible God's love is "made complete" in us.
3. We are born of God and know God.

39

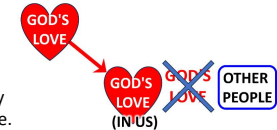
UNSAVED PEOPLE OFTEN DECEIVE THEMSELVES INTO THINKING THEY HAVE "GENUINE" LOVE.

(They *ignore* God's definition of *genuine* love.)

The unsaved person.

❖ WHAT THEY MAY CLAIM:

Though *God's* love does not flow through them to other people, they may *still* claim to possess God's love.



❖ REALITY:

The fact that *God's* love does not flow through them is *proof* that his love is not in them. The sin barrier is still there. Any "love" that may be present is their own *fake* love, not God's *genuine* love.



40

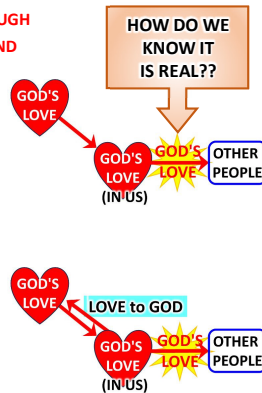
HOW CAN WE KNOW WITH CERTAINTY THAT THE LOVE FLOWING THROUGH US IS ACTUALLY GOD'S LOVE, AND THAT WE ARE NOT DECEIVED?

The saved person.

If God's love is in us, it will "resonate" in both directions. It will express itself toward people *and* toward God.

❖ But this leaves us with one final question:

HOW DO WE KNOW THAT OUR LOVE FOR GOD IS REAL??
(Could we be deceived?)



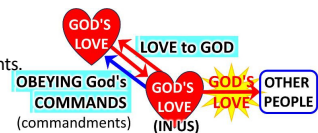
41

The ultimate proof that our love is *genuine* – that it's from God – is seen in our response to God's commandments.

- ✓ God's commandments *define* genuine love. Obedience to them is *visible* evidence that all can see. We can *accurately* learn the nature of these commands *only* through Scripture.

The saved person.

They obey God's commandments. This is *evidence* that their love is genuine, and that they are saved.



The unsaved person.

The *absence* of obedience to God's commands is *proof* that *none* of the genuine love is there. Any supposed "love" they may have is *fake*.



42