

## Lesson Ten

**The Grace and Love of God toward Us****I The Greatest Commands of the Old Covenant****Matthew 22:36-40**

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" <sup>37</sup>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." <sup>38</sup>This is the great and foremost commandment. <sup>39</sup>The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' <sup>40</sup>"On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

**A The New Covenant is NOT like the Old Covenant.**

Jeremiah 31:31-32 <sup>31</sup>

"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, <sup>32</sup>not like the covenant which I made with their fathers

**B These commands are commonly taught as being commands we are to follow, but Jesus was answering the question of someone who was under the Law ABOUT the Law. He answered the man according to the Law.****Galatians 4:4-5**

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

**Romans 6:14**

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

**C We are not under the Law and Prophets.****1 Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.****John 1:16-17**

And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

**2 God proclaimed that we should listen to His Son.****Matthew 17:4-5**

Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

▪ **Moses represented the Law.**

▪ **Elijah represented the Prophets.**

▪ **The church today has erected a tabernacle for Moses, Elijah, and Jesus, but GOD said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. HEAR HIM!!!"**

▪ **Mixing the Law, Prophets, and Jesus results in very confused and miserable Christians, strangulated from the life of Christ.**

- **We are supposed to be listening to Jesus and obeying Him, not the Law and not the prophets.**

- This doesn't mean we throw away the Old Testament writings, only that we need to read and understand them now in their proper context and through the accomplished work of the cross.

### **3 God now speaks through Jesus.**

#### **Hebrews 1:1-4**

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> **has in these last days spoken to us by His Son**, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; <sup>3</sup> who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

- **Jesus speaks to us today...not Moses, not the prophets, not angels.**

- 4 **Jesus is the only human being who ever loved God with ALL His heart, ALL His soul, and ALL His mind. He is the only one who completely loved His neighbor as Himself in that he died for ALL. He was the only man who ever fulfilled the law completely and perfectly.**

## **II The Greatest Commands of the New Covenant**

### **A Jesus gave His disciples one commandment.**

#### **John 13:34**

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

### **B The Two Commands of the New Covenant**

#### **1 John 3:23**

And this is His commandment: that we should **believe** on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and **love** one another, as He gave us commandment.

#### **1 The Father commands us to believe on the name of His Son.**

##### **John 6:28-29**

Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"  
<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

#### **2 Jesus commands us to love one another.**

##### **John 15:12**

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

- Under the New Covenant we are to love AS we have been loved. God's love for us precedes our love for others.

**III In order to love one another AS HE LOVES US, we must know and believe in His love. ONLY as we begin to trust in, cling to, and rely on His love, we will be better able to love each other<sup>1</sup>.**

**1 John 3:14**

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

**1 John 4:19**

We love BECAUSE He first loved us.

#### **IV God's Love Demonstrated**

**A Our relationship with God is not based on our love for God, but on His love for us.**

**1 John 4:10**

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.

o **Under the Old Covenant, the emphasis was on us loving God.**

God's love for us is what is most important under the New Covenant.

o **Under the New Covenant, the emphasis is on God loving us.**

**B God loves the entire world and demonstrates His love for us by giving His only Son for us.**

**John 16:27**

For the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father.

**John 17:26**

"I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

**Romans 8:6-11**

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. <sup>10</sup> For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. <sup>11</sup> And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

**1 John 4:9**

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.

**John 15:13** Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

---

<sup>1</sup> This lesson focuses in on becoming confident in His love for us. The next lesson will deal with Grace and Loving One Another.

**John 17:25-26** "O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; <sup>26</sup>and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

**Ephesians 2:4-7**

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

**C God's love for us is so grand that He considers us His children.**

**1 John 3:1-3**

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

**D God demonstrated His love and kindness by saving us.**

**Titus 3:4-7**

But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, <sup>5</sup> 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, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> that having been justified<sup>2</sup> by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**E God's love gives us hope.**

**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.

**F Nothing can separate us from His love and we are more than conquerors through Him.**

**Romans 8:35-39**

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written:

"For Your sake we are killed all day long;

We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

<sup>37</sup> Yet in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through Him who loved us.

<sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> 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.

---

<sup>2</sup> Justified: Declared righteous by grace through faith  
C.D. Hildebrand

**G Jesus directs our hearts into God's love.****2 Thessalonians 3:5**

Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.

**H God's love for us is without fear.****1 John 4:18**

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

**2 Timothy 1:7**

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

**Romans 8:15**

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

**V Benefits of His Love for You****A Since God gave His Son because He loved us, He will surely freely give us all things.****Romans 8:31-32**

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

**B Because of His love, we are blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus.****Ephesians 1:2-6**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, <sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, <sup>5</sup> having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

**C His divine power has given us all things pertaining to life and godliness AND we become partakers of the divine nature through His promises.****2 Peter 1:1-4**

To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup> Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, <sup>3</sup> as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, <sup>4</sup> by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

**D He loves us and has given us everlasting consolation and hope by grace.**

**2 Thessalonians 2:16-17**

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, <sup>17</sup> comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

**E Faith works through love.**

**Galatians 5:6**

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

## VI Abiding in His Love for You

**Jude 1:20-21**

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, <sup>21</sup> **keep yourselves in the love of God**, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

**Ephesians 3:17-19**

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, <sup>16</sup> that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, <sup>17</sup> that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, **being rooted and grounded in love**, <sup>18</sup> may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— <sup>19</sup> to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

**John 15:9**

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

**1 John 4:16-17**

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. <sup>17</sup>By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

God loves us and accepts us just as He loves and accepts Jesus.

**A Because of God’s love for us we NEVER have to fear standing before God on the day of judgment because we will not come under judgment. As long as our faith is in Jesus, we will have confidence before Him.**

**John 5:24**

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”

**VII GOD IS LOVE**

**A** *If God is love (agape), and love (agape) is described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, then God is described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.*

<b>1 Corinthians 13:4-8</b>	<b>God is Love</b>
Love is patient.	<i>God is patient with us and with the world.</i>
Love is kind.	<i>God in His kindness and love sent His Son to set us free.</i>
Love is not jealous.	<i>The Greek word can be used positively or negatively. Since it is using “not” in the sentence, it is assumed that this is negative as in coveting or resenting someone’s goods. God has no need to be jealous in the negative sense. He is however jealous for us in the good sense.</i>
Love does not brag.	<i>God does not brag about Himself. He is who He is.</i>
Love is not arrogant.	<i>God is not arrogant. He doesn’t snub us. He doesn’t use His power against us.</i>
Love does not behave unbecomingly.	<i>God does not behave unbecomingly. His love is without partiality. He does not and cannot be tempted with evil.</i>
Love does not seek its own.	<i>God is not selfish. The word “grace” means gift. God gives and gives and gives.</i>
Love is not provoked.	<i>God doesn’t get ticked off with us. He doesn’t turn His back on us in anger.</i>
Love does not take into account a wrong.	<i>He is not imputing (accounting or counting) our sins against us. He isn’t holding a grudge.</i>
Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness.	<i>He has made us His righteousness. When unjust things happen to us, He is not pleased.</i>
Love rejoices with the truth.	<i>He has sent us The Truth. He cannot lie. His promises are true.</i>
Love bears all things.	<i>He isn’t growing weary of us or our struggles.</i>
Love believes all things.	<i>He believes in His power in us.</i>
Love hopes all things.	<i>He is the “God of all hope”.</i>
Love endures all things.	<i>He is never going to leave us. He won’t throw us away because He can’t stand us anymore.</i>
Love never fails.	<i>All His promises are “yes” and “amen”.</i>

But now abide faith, hope, love, these three;  
but the greatest<sup>3</sup> of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

<p><b>FAITH</b></p>	<p>Faith functions when we know we are loved. We have confidence in His love for us.</p>	<p><b>Galatians 5:6</b> <i>...but faith working through love.</i></p>
<p><b>HOPE</b></p>	<p>Hope exists because we know God loves us.</p>	<p><b>Romans 5:5</b> <i>...and hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.</i></p>
<p><b>LOVE</b></p>	<p>Without God’s love, there would be <b>NOTHING</b> to hope for and no one in whom we could believe. Therefore, God’s love is superior to hope and faith.</p>	<p><b>1 John 4:19</b> <i>We love BECAUSE He first loved us.</i></p> <p><i>Because God loves us as described above, we are able to love others the same way. People who do not know God loves them unconditionally usually fall short of loving others. The solution? Know, believe, and abide in His love for you. “Love” is a fruit of the Spirit and it will grow as you are more confident in His love.</i></p>

<sup>3</sup> **Greatest** c. a thing to be highly esteemed for its excellence, equivalent to “excellent”: 1 Corinthians 13:13 (cf. Winer’s Grammar, sec. 35, i. Buttmann, sec. 123, 13); *ta Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*.

