

Building God's Way 4

*Mar 12:28-33 (NKJV) Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" [29] Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'HEAR, O ISRAEL, THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE. [30] AND **YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.**' This is the first commandment. [31] And the second, like it, is this: '**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF.**' There is no other commandment greater than these." [32] So the scribe said to Him, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. [33] And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbour as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."*

Joh 14:15 (AMP) If you [really] love Me, you will keep (obey) My commands.

Joh 14:21 (AMP) The person who has My commands and keeps them is the one who [really] loves Me; and whoever [really] loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I [too] will love him and will show (reveal, manifest) Myself to him. [I will let Myself be clearly seen by him and make Myself real to him.]

Joh 14:23-24 (AMP) Jesus answered, if a person [really] loves Me, he will keep My word [obey My teaching]; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home (abode, special dwelling place) with him. [24] Anyone who does not [really] love Me does not observe and obey My teaching. And the teaching which you hear, and heed is not Mine, but [comes] from the Father Who sent Me.

1Jn 3:11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,

1Jn 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1Jn 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

II. Love your neighbour (as yourself)

*Rom 13:8-10 (NIV) Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, **for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.** [9] The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." [10] Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.*

In the charismatic church we can become very unclear and hazy in our thinking around what the Lord expects of us in terms of relating to others. His Word is clear on His principle, standards, and will. The measure of our love, is our day-to-day obedience in everyday situations to the principles and teaching as revealed in the Bible, his Word.

What does God's Word say about how I should relate to others? How do I obey His Word and in so doing, love God and love others?

1Co 13:4-7 (NKJV) Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; [5] does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; [6] does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; [7] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

This is a great scripture to use as the measure of love in everyday life. Let's break it down further. What does love look like in relationships:

1. My brothers and sisters in Christ

i. Edify, encourage, exhort, comfort one another:

Rom 14:19 Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

Remember sometimes we must go through conflict or disagreement to get to a place of true peace. There is a difference between being a peacekeeper at all costs (including the cost of your inner peace) and being a peace maker.

1Th 5:11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Eph 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Heb 3:13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "TODAY," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Rom 15:5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,

Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

ii. Serve one another

Gal 5:13-14 (NKJV) 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. [14] For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

1Pe 4:10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

These instructions are definitely not limited to within the four walls of a church. They must be put into practice in everyday life.

iii. Bear one another's burdens

Gal 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Gal 6:2 (TPT) Love empowers us to fulfill the law of the Anointed One as we carry each other's troubles.

It is not that we are to carry everyone's burdens. We do need to have boundaries. Some of us have such strong boundaries that we simply are not open to carrying anyone else's burdens. We are to walk in love with each other, willing and ready to bear each other's burdens

iv. Be kind and compassionate to one another

1Pe 3:8 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous.

1Pe 3:8 (TPT) Now, this is the goal: to live in harmony with one another and demonstrate affectionate love, sympathy, and kindness toward other believers. Let humility describe who you are as you dearly love one another.

v. Admonish and speak truth to one another

Rom 15:14 Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

Are you willing and able to speak truth and challenge a brother or sister in Christ? Out of love? Or is your desire for them to like you greater than your fear of God?

Rom 15:14 (NET) But I myself am fully convinced about you, my brothers, and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another.

Are you able to instruct a fellow brother and sister concerning something in the word, especially as it relates to life?

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Eph 4:25 Therefore, putting away lying, "LET EACH ONE OF YOU SPEAK TRUTH WITH HIS NEIGHBOR," for we are members of one another.

Flattery is a form of deception!

Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

Jas 5:9 Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!

1Jn 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

vi. Submit one to another

1Pe 5:5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

Eph 5:21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

vii. Meet with one another

Heb 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of us together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

viii. Be hospitable to one another

1Pe 4:9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.

ix. Forgive one another

Eph 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Col 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

Eph 4:2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

x. Honour one another

Rom 12:10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.

1Pe 2:17 (NET) Honour all people, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the king.

Jas 4:11 Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law, and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

xi. Do not envy one another

Gal 5:26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Let's genuinely celebrate the success of others.

xii. Love one another with a pure heart

1Pe 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,

Especially the opposite sex!

1Th 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,

1Th 4:9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.

1Pe 4:8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "LOVE WILL COVER A MULTITUDE OF SINS."

This is where the church rises in power when she truly walks in love. This is where unity and forgiveness thrive.

xiii. Pray for one another

Jas 5:16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

2. My spouse

i. Honour

1Pe 3:7 (NKJV) Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honour to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

1Pe 3:7 (TPT) Husbands, you in turn must treat your wives with tenderness, viewing them as feminine partners who deserve to be honoured, for they are co-heirs with you of the “divine grace of life,” so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

ii. Respect & Submission

Eph 5:22-24 (NIV) Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. [23] For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour. [24] Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Eph 5:33 (NIV) However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

iii. Love

Eph 5:25-28 (NIV) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her [26] to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, [27] and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. [28] In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Tit 2:4-5 (NIV) Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, [5] to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

1Co 7:5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

Maybe you won't realise this, but if I were to ask someone who does a lot of marriage counselling.... If just these scriptures I have covered above were implemented and lived out in Christian marriages.... I dare say that most of the issues presenting themselves in marriage counselling would not be there. God's word is such a good foundation to build all our life upon.

3. My Parents

Eph 6:1-3 (NKJV) Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. [2] "HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER," which is the first commandment with promise: [3] "THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU AND YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH."

4. My children

Eph 6:4 (NKJV) And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Pro 13:24 (NIV) Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.

Pro 19:18 (NIV) Discipline your children, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to their death.

2Co 12:14 (NIV) Now I am ready to visit you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions but you. After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.

Pro 13:22 (NKJV) A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, But the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.

5. Authority

Rom 13:1 (NET) Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except by God's appointment, and the authorities that exist have been instituted by God.

6. Leaders in Church

1Ti 5:17 (NET) Elders who provide effective leadership must be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard in speaking and teaching.

Conclusion

*Mar 12:29-31 (NKJV) [29] Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'HEAR, O ISRAEL, THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE. [30] AND **YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.**' This is the first commandment. [31] And the second, like it, is this: '**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF.**' There is no other commandment greater than these."*

- My brothers and sisters in Christ
- My spouse
- My Parents
- My children
- Authority
- Leaders in Church

Let's use the Word of God as the standard for what loving our neighbour truly looks like. As we obey God's Word, we are showing our love for our Lord even as we are truly loving our neighbour.