

^[18] He executes justice for the orphan and the widow and shows His love for the alien by giving them food and clothing. ^[19] So show your love for the alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.

[Deuteronomy 10:18-19]

The **FIRST** Special Teaching on **True Love** is that God's **LOVE** is **IMPARTIAL!** We see His **IMPARTIALITY** in Deuteronomy 10:18-19 above. Here we learn two things about God's **IMPARTIAL LOVE**. First is His **LOVE** for the 'orphan' and the 'widow'. Second is His **LOVE** for the "alien", that is those who are from other nations.

The **SECOND** Special Teaching on **True Love** is that **LOVE** is **UNSELFISH!** We learn this in Matthew 22:39, where Jesus taught the second greatest commandment is that we should, "love" our "neighbor as" our self. Together with this also consider Romans 13:8-10 where Paul teaches us,

^[8] Owe nothing to anyone except to **LOVE** one another; **FOR** the one who **LOVES** their neighbor **HAS FULFILLED** the LAW. ^[9] **FOR** this, "You are not to commit adultery, you are not to commit not murder, you are not to steal, you are not to covet," and **IF** there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "YOU ARE TO **LOVE** YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." ^[10] **LOVE** DOES NO WRONG TO A NEIGHBOR; **LOVE** therefore is the fulfillment of the law.

Then Galatians 6:10 adds,

So then, while we have opportunity, **LET US DO GOOD TO ALL**, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

The **THIRD** Special Teaching on **True Love** is that **LOVE** is **PROOF YOU ARE HIS DISCIPLE!** Listen to what Jesus said in John 13:34-35. Here Jesus said,

^[34] "A new commandment I give to you, that you **LOVE** one another, even as I have **LOVED** you, that you also love one another. ^[35] **BY THIS ALL WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE My DISCIPLES, IF YOU HAVE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER.**"

The **FOURTH** Special Teaching on **True Love** is that **CHRIST'S LOVE IS THE STANDARD!** We learn this in John 15:12-14, where Jesus said,

^[12] "This is My commandment, **THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER, JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.** ^[13] **GREATER LOVE** has no one than this, that **ONE LAY DOWN THEIR LIFE FOR THEIR FRIENDS.** ^[14] You are My friends, **IF YOU DO WHAT I COMMAND YOU.**

Not only are you Jesus' friend **IF** you do what He commands you, **BUT** rest assured that He wants to be your friend. How do I know this? I know He wants to be my friend and yours because, **HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR YOU** that you might be saved from your sins!

The **FIFTH** Special Teaching on **True Love** is that **TRUE LOVE MUST BE SINCERE!** We learn this in Romans 12:9 where the Holy Spirit move Paul to teach us that we are to,

Let love be without **HYPOCRISY.** Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.

The **SIXTH** Special Teaching on **True Love** is that **TRUE LOVE MUST BE ABOUNDING!**

We learn this in 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 when Paul was moved to say,

^[11] Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you; ^[12] and may the Lord cause you to INCREASE and ABOUND IN LOVE for one another, and TOWARD ALL, just as we also do for you; ^[13] so that He may establish your hearts BLAMELESS in HOLINESS before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

The SEVENTH and last Special Teaching on True Love is that TRUE LOVE MUST BE FERVENT!

We learn this in 1 Peter 1:22-23 when the Spirit moved Peter to teach us saying,

^[22] Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a SINCERE LOVE of the brethren, FERVENTLY LOVE one another from the heart, ^[23] FOR you have been born again not of seed which is perishable BUT imperishable, that is, through the LIVING and ABIDING WORD of God.

As I close Today's Thoughts, please listen closely to what John was moved to say in 1 John 4:7-12.

^[7] Beloved, let us LOVE one another, for LOVE is from God; and everyone who LOVES is born of God and knows God. ^[8] The one who does not LOVE does not know God, FOR God IS LOVE. ^[9] By this the LOVE of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. ^[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. ^[11] Beloved, IF God so LOVED us, we also ought to LOVE one another. ^[12] No one has beheld God at any time; IF we LOVE one another, God abides in us, and His LOVE is perfected in us.

Together with this, also consider what we are taught in 1 John 4:16-19, where,

^[16] And we have come to know and have believed the LOVE which God has for us. God is I LOVE, and the one who abides in LOVE abides in God, and God abides in them. ^[17] By this, LOVE is perfected with us, that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. ^[18] There is no fear in LOVE; but perfect LOVE casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in LOVE. ^[19] We LOVE, because He first LOVE us.

Lord willing, I hope you will join me here again tomorrow, when we will consider some examples of brotherly love!

Please meditate and pray on these things! Will you please now join me in prayer?

Loving Father, I come before You Today giving You thanksgiving for all You have taught us on love Today! I thank You for teaching us these seven special teachings on love. I give You thanksgiving in prayer in the Name of Christ the Lord. Amen!

Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to **know in a greater way** the **One** Who promises in His Word to never leave you nor forsake you [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6, 8]!

BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED ME, I CHOOSE TO LOVE HIM, AND TO LOVE MY NEIGHBOR AS MYSELF, AND ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH! – tom