

Love is the key to God and Heaven by lcl

[Joh 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.

[Joh 16:27](#) for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came out from God.

[Eph 2:4](#) But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love *with* which He loved us

[Eph 5:2](#) And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us, and has given Himself for us as an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savor.

[2Th 2:16](#) Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God, even our Father, who has loved us and has given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

[Heb 1:9](#) You have loved righteousness and hated iniquity, therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness above Your fellows."

[1Jn 4:10](#) In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation concerning our sins.

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

God first showed His love for mankind while we were yet sinners. His love was so great that He sent His son, Jesus, to assume our sins and die in our place. We could not offer anything great enough to cancel our sins and allow us to be in the presence of a Holy God. In return, God desires our fellowship with Him now and forever. Thus, He gave these commandments as the key to His acceptance:

[Mat 22:36](#) Master, which is the great commandment in the Law?

[Mat 22:37](#) Jesus said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

[Mat 22:38](#) This is the first and great commandment.

[Mat 22:39](#) And the second *is* like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

[Mat 22:40](#) On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

[Mar 12:28](#) And coming up one of the scribes heard them reasoning, knowing that He had answered them well, he asked Him, Which is *the* first commandment of all?

[Mar 12:29](#) And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments *is*, "Hear, O Israel, *the* Lord our God is one Lord;

[Mar 12:30](#) and you shall love *the* Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." This *is* the first commandment.

[Mar 12:31](#) And the second is like this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.

We are to love God with all our being. Even, above our own desires. Our love leads us to accept Christ as our savior and leader and to receive God's Holy Spirit in us for guidance, comfort, teaching, communication to God and to intercede for us on our behalf against our sins and errors.

In addition, God desires that we also love our neighbors as God loves them. Not necessarily for their actions, but for the reason of the same undeserved grace that is extended to us from God.

Love is the binding that brought God to us and that brings us to God and those around us. This is not a lustful type of love, but an agape love that cares deeply for the well being of those effected. Scripture defines love as charity:

1Co 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I have become *as* sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.

1Co 13:2 And though I have prophecies, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so as to move mountains, and do not have charity, I am nothing.

1Co 13:3 And though I give out all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I deliver my body to be burned, and have not charity, I am profited nothing.

1Co 13:4 Charity has patience, is kind; charity is not envious, is not vain, is not puffed up;

1Co 13:6 Charity does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth,

1Co 13:8 Charity never fails. But if *there are* prophecies, they will be abolished; if tongues, they shall cease; if knowledge, it will be abolished.

1Co 13:13 And now faith, hope, charity, these three remain; but the greatest of these *is* charity.

1Co 14:1 Follow after charity and desire spiritual *things*, but rather that you may prophesy.

1Co 16:14 Let all your things be done in charity.

Christ binds all things together in love. Love is the key that brings us to God, His salvation through Jesus and to show God's love to mankind as Jesus did. Jesus's love for the Father was the primary motive for His acceptance to die for us. We are called to also love the Father beyond all else in life and to love and honor Christ as our savior. In return, we gain acceptance to live eternally with God in glory.