

**By This All Will
Know**



John 13:34-35

Christian love

- Defined - 2 words in NT
- “Love” found 284x in NT (NKJV)
- Agape - primary word (251x)
 - “The characteristic word of Christianity” (Vine’s)
 - The quality of warm regard for and interest in another, cherish, esteem (BDAG)
 - To be full of good will and exhibit the same. Affection, benevolence
 - ♥ (Thayer)

Christian love

- Defined - 2 words in NT
- Agape - Caring enough to sacrifice for what is best. We CARE!
- This love applies to every relationship we are in.
- This love is deciding to act in a deliberate way (Moyer). Defined by actions above emotions.

Misunderstood because of its usage in our language. See **John 14:15,**

♥ **1 John 5:2-3**

Christian love

- Defined - 2 words in NT
- Phileo - 22x in NT. Mostly in John's gospel.
- An affectionate love.
“To have special interest in someone or something” BDAG
“To be friendly to one” Thayer
Closer to our English usage, but still different. See **Matthew 10:37,**
♥ **John 11:36**

Christian love

- Defined - 2 words in NT
- Phileo -
- This is the love of Christians that stems from agape love and the bonds it forms. We should develop deep and meaningful relationships with brethren. A strong bond that draws us closer than the world.

Romans 12:10

- *Philadelphia*, a derivative

♥ **(2 Peter 1:7, Hebrews 13:1)**

Christian love

- Described - **1 Corinthians 13:1-8**
- Both its importance and its character. Various qualities are listed.



Christian love

- To understand Christian love, we must first understand God's love
1 John 4:7-9 – *God is love*
John 3:16, Romans 5:6-9 – demonstrated in Jesus
Romans 8:31-39 - true appreciation for God's love and our motivation
- When we appreciate, we love in return -
1 John 4:19. How? **1 John 5:2-3**,
♥ **Matthew 22:37**

Christian love

- Loving God leads to loving one another
- **Matthew 22:38-39** - 1st and 2nd commandments
Brethren included in “neighbor” - **cf. Galatians 5:14-15, James 2:8-9**
- The basis of our fellowship - **1 John 1:2-3**
1 John 4:20-21
Foundational – **John 13:34-35,**
♥ **2 Peter 1:5-7, etc.**

How should I love my brethren?

- **Hebrews 13:1**, “Let brotherly love continue”

By realizing that we are different.

- - In a world where differences are accentuated, we need proper perspective
 - Some differences are important - **2 Corinthians 6:14, Ephesians 5:11, 1 John 2:15-16, etc.**
 - But, in another real sense, we need to overlook differences and work with each other.
 - ♥

How should I love my brethren?

By realizing that we are different.

- - In some areas we do not think alike
 - different backgrounds, personalities, made with different abilities, etc.
 - We need to RESPECT these differences - **Galatians 3:27-28, cf. 1 Corinthians 12:12ff** - different members with different functions...
 - ♥

How should I love my brethren?

By realizing that we are different.

- Paul continually dealt with this:
 - **Romans 14, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23**
 - He became “all things to all men...”
1 Corinthians 8:9-13
 - it is easy to point out differences and idiosyncrasies in others and even let that drive a wedge between us. God wants
 - ♥ better - **cf. Galatians 5:14-15**

How should I love my brethren?

By being longsuffering

- **1 Corinthians 13:4** - Love suffers long

Galatians 5:22-23

Ephesians 4:2 - “bearing with one another in love” - **1 Corinthians**

13:7 - absorb, endure,

“put up with annoyance or

♥ difficulty” (L&N 25.176)

How should I love my brethren?

By being longsuffering

- We need to be patient with each other. Especially “babes”, those genuinely struggling to overcome, and when studying with others
- I can control MY attitude!



How should I love my brethren?

By serving and sacrificing

- **Galatians 5:13** - Through love serve one another
- Serving can help keep you humble (unless you are praising yourself) and appreciate THEIR worth
Matthew 20:25-27
- Consider Jesus - **Matthew 20:28,**
♥ **John 13:14-15**

How should I love my brethren?

By serving and sacrificing

- To the point of sacrificing for them
- **James 2:14ff, 1 John 3:16-18**
- **Cf. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5** – the Macedonians helping needy brethren in Judea
“They first gave themselves to the Lord” (**vs. 5**)



How should I love my brethren?

By watching out for each other's souls

- While not meddling (**1 Thessalonians 5:10-12, 2 Thess. 3:11-12**) if we know a brother is overtaken in sin or struggling, we do what we can
- **Galatians 6:1-2, James 5:19-20**
1 Thessalonians 5:14
- If we genuinely care, we will not let them fail spiritually if we can help
♥ them

How should I love my brethren?

By not jumping to conclusions

- Do NOT assume the worst. Give the benefit of the doubt
- **1 Corinthians 13:5** – love “thinks no evil”, “believes all things” (**13:7**)
- **Proverbs 18:13, 15:28,**
James 1:19-20
- Judge with a righteous judgment
(**John 7:24, cf. Matthew 7:1-5**)
♥

How should I love my brethren?

By not jumping to conclusions

- **Matthew 7:12** – the “golden rule”
- Before I take action, I need ALL the facts. If you do not have all the facts, LET IT GO!
- This is one of the underlying failures in broken society today
- **Matthew 18:15-18** applies here



How should I love my brethren?

By being willing to forgive

- **Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13**
– even as you have been forgiven
- **Matthew 6:12, 14-15** - your
eternity depends on it
cf. James 2:13 - mercy



John 13:34-35

*“By this all will know that you are
My disciples...”*

The worlds IS watching us!



Do you love your brothers and
sisters as you ought to?



Let us pray!

