

1 Peter 1:22-25

Love One Another Earnestly



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1 Peter 1:1-21 Review

Blessed be the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

- He unconditionally elected us (v1)
- He caused us to be born again to a living hope (v3)
- To an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, unfading, kept in heaven for you (v4)
- He is guarding us with His power through faith (v5)
- He is refining & purifying our faith (6-7)
- The prophets searched & inquired and the angels long to look upon so great a salvation (v10-12)

1 Peter 1:22-25

22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love,

***love one another** earnestly from a pure heart,*

23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;

24 for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, 25 but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

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1 Peter 1:1-21 Review

In light of our glorious salvation: (Commands)

-Set your hope fully on the grace brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ (v13)

-Be holy as He who called you is holy (v15-16)

-Conduct yourselves in fear knowing you were ransomed from futile ways with the precious blood of Jesus (v17-21)

Love One Another

“Love one another” is not only a command:

John 13:34-35 *A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another**: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. **By this** all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

1 John 2:9-10a *Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. **Whoever loves his brother abides in the light***

Two Essentials Needed to “love one another”

Two Essentials:

- v22 “*having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth*”
- V23 “*since you have been born again*”

Reverse Order:

1 John 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is Christ has been born of God

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First Essential Needed to “love one another”

1 John 4:7-8 *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

Romans 5:5 *hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

1 Thessalonians 4:9 *Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another*

Galatians 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

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Second Essential Needed to “love one another”

22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love”

- When we are saved, we are brought into the family of God with all other Christians
- Within this family is a “*sincere brotherly love*”
 - “*sincere*”-without hypocrisy/undisguised
 - What a blessing it is to experience this family love

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First Essential Needed to “love one another”

V22-23 “love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again”

- “*born again*”-Regeneration/new creation
- If you have not been born again, you cannot love (as commanded here)
- We are/were enabled to love as a result of the new birth
- Non-Christians cannot love

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Second Essential Needed to “love one another”

22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart

- “*having purified your souls*”-(Perfect tense) completed in the past (not repeated) with lingering results
- **How are our souls purified?** “*by our obedience to the truth*”-Faith in truth (Faith defined)
 - **John 3:36** *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him*
- **When we are born again, our eyes are opened up to “the truth” (effectual call), we believe gospel & we are purified (by the atoning blood of Jesus)**

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Two Essentials Needed to “love one another”

- We must be “*born again*” which leads to faith “*obedience to the truth*”
- If we are not born again we **will not** obey the truth
- When we obey the truth (believe) our “*souls are purified*” leading to a “*sincere brotherly love*”
- In light of both of these Peter commands “*love one another earnestly from a pure heart*”

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Love one another earnestly from a pure heart

- **Who are we to love?** *“one another”*-brothers/sisters in Christ
- **How are we to love them?** *earnestly/fervently/intensely* (signifying “intense strain/stretching”)
 - Would you describe your love for the body of Christ as intensely stretching, or do you love only within your comforts/conveniences?
 - This love, when witnessed by the world, should lead them to the conclusion that we are disciples of Jesus Christ
 - **1 Peter 4:8** *Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. (We are not perfected)*
 - Do you say “I love you” but your love can’t cover a multitude of sins?
 - In other words, you love others until they let you down, offend you, and then your love doesn’t look so loving anymore.
 - If this love comes from the new birth & only those who are saved can truly love, then shouldn’t we be the most gracious people of all? Gospel centered love

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Love one another earnestly from a pure heart

Not only earnestly (intensely stretched) but “from the heart”

- The Spirit of Jesus Christ is living in & through us (Gal 5:16, 18)
- Not “loving” because I am required (remember self in gospel)
- This is genuine love that acts (not words only)

1 John 3:16-18 *By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*

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Power when we find it difficult to love

- Peter addresses this in v23-25
- First, the means through which we are born again *“seed...word of God....good news preached to you”*
 - James 1:18 *“He brought us forth by the word of truth”*

What about the word is emphasized?

- *23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; 24 for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, 25 but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.*
- Often when we struggle to love others, we are thinking of ourselves (protecting or looking out for ourselves first)
- If we know & believe that which saves us is living, abiding, imperishable and remaining forever, then we can give ourselves completely over to loving others without reservation, fear or worry for self. (Lay your life down)

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