

John 13:34-35. *God loves for a reason*. Here's what it's all about—I AM will be glorified. Here's how you do it, now that you know I AM personally—

Just as I have loved you, you must love one another. It is by this love that I AM will be glorified because your love for one another as I love you will show in no uncertain terms that: you are My students, My followers, My cherished children—IF you love one another!

JOHN 13:34-35

“A new command I [Christ Jesus] give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

- Q How did the Lord God demonstrate His love for us?
- Q What is the reason for loving others? Why is loving others, then, important?
- Q Just who is this “another?” Are we to love those who are not followers, or just followers, or followers more than non-followers of God?
- Q Why is it so difficult to do, this loving one another as He loved us?

JOHN 3:16-19

For God so loved [*ἠγάπησεν*, 25, *loves unconditionally & actively*] the world that he gave his one and only begotten [*μονογενῆ*, 3439, *unique, only*] Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only begotten [*μονογενῆ*, 3439,

unique, only] Son. ¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved [*ἠγάπησεν*, 25, *loves unconditionally & actively*] darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.

- Q What is the fundamental flaw with how John 3:16 is read and used?
- Q What determines whether our love is godly? Motive. Objective.
- Q Why does the Lord God love us?
- Q Why does the Lord God love the “whole world” even though the “whole world” does not deserve to be loved?
- Q How can the Lord God be truly holy by loving the unacceptably unholy?
- Q What then, is in it, for the Lord God to love us?
- Q Why is “love” the fundamental core to the news about the Lord God? [Hint: how do you reconcile the mercy and justice attributes of the Lord our God?]

⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

¹⁰**This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for** *[or as the one who would turn aside his wrath, taking away]* **our sins.** ¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵If anyone

acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. ¹⁶And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. ¹⁷In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. ¹⁸There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. ²¹And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

μονογενη (monogenei)

Addendum: Church History (Arian Controversy, “Begotten”)

1. single of its kind, only
2. used of only sons or daughters (viewed in relation to their parents)
3. used of Christ, denotes the only begotten son of God

[Luke 7:12](#) Now as He approached the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the **only** [μονογενῆ, 3439, *unique, only*] son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a sizeable crowd from the city was with her.

[Luke 8:42](#) for he had an **only** [μονογενῆ, 3439, *unique, only*] daughter, about twelve years old, and she was dying. But as He went, the multitudes were pressing against Him.

[Luke 9:38](#) And behold, a man from the multitude shouted out, saying, "Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, for he is my **only** [μονογενῆ, 3439, *unique, only*] boy,

[John 1:14](#) And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the **only** begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

[John 1:18](#) No man has seen God at any time; the **only** begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

[John 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 eternal life.

[John 3:18](#) "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the **only** begotten Son of God.

[Hebrews 11:17](#) By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac; and he who had received the promises was offering up his **only** begotten son;

[1 John 4:9](#) 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.