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BIBLE HOUSE
OF
GRACE**

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Love Your Neighbour as Yourself

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Love Your Neighbour as Yourself.

When Jesus was asked, "what is the great commandment in the Law?" He replied:

- **Matthew 22:37- 40:** "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

These are the only two commandments anyone needs to know, because if a person loves God, and their neighbour as themselves, they will never hurt or harm another human in anyway, which means no other commandment would ever be broken. The words, 'Love your neighbour as yourself' means do not deliberately do harm to other humans.

No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself. The following statements recorded in the book of Leviticus make it clear that our neighbour is every other person, and shows that the law requires justice for all people, for it states:

- You shall not steal, or deal falsely, or lie to one another.
- You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob them.
- You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind.
- You shall do no injustice in court, or be partial to the poor or show favor to the rich, but in righteousness judge your neighbor.
- You shall not slander your people, or stand up against the life of your neighbor.
- You shall love your neighbor as yourself, and do no wrong to a stranger, but love them as yourself. (Lev. 19:11-36).

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James the half brother of Jesus calls Jesus' command, the royal law:

- **James 2:8:** If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

Concerning Jesus command, "love your neighbor as yourself," the apostle Paul wrote:

- **Romans 13:8-10:** Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

The thing God hates the most is when we do harm to another person:

- Physically.
- Financially.
- Sexually.
- Emotionally.
- Verbally.
- Spiritually.

And the thing God loves the most is when we do-good to others. It is interesting to notice that the major crime that God points out in Noah's time, and one of the main reasons for the flood was because of all the violence in the land. To love in the biblical sense is not an emotional attitude, but the keeping of the law of love in relation to our neighbour, for the law, 'love your neighbour as yourself' contains the law of justice and what is right and fair for all. Though we must render honour and justice to all people wherever due, we have a particular responsibility to care for our families and those who belong to Christ.

The whole foundation of the Christian faith is love, for God is love:

- **1 John 4:16:** So, we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.
- **1 John 4:8:** Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Added to God's love, our faith is also founded on Christ's love, for not one of us are saved by our own merit, but were bought with a price (1 Cor. 7:23), that only the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ could pay, for it was from love he laid his life down for us, and this he suffered while we were still sinners (Rom. 5:8), so, that despite the sinful aberrations and dysfunctions that dwell in our flesh, and apart from the law, self-effort and works, we could be counted righteous by faith, for God counts the faith of all the redeemed in Christ, as their righteousness, and imputes it to all Jesus brothers and sisters as a pure and free-gift. Consider the following words of Paul:

- **Romans 5:10:** While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, how much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

This verse shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that God loved us long before we loved Him. Some in the Christian faith determine whether God loves them by their good or bad circumstances, if their life is charmed and blessed God loves them, but if it suddenly takes a turn for the worse and trouble comes, they feel God has withdrawn his love, but this is superstition and judging God according to the fickle circumstances of this world. When anyone who believes in Christ doubts God's love all they need to do is look back to the bloodstained cross of Calvary, and see what it cost the heart of the Father to save us, and how much his Son suffered to redeem us, and spiritually cloth us with his robe of righteous so that we could be justified by faith, and granted eternal life in everlasting glory apart from works, and strictly adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days, or keeping religious customs and traditions.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.