

Questions

What are the two greatest commandments?

Give one reason why we should love each other?

Introduction

People are the apex of God's creation, the only creation where God gave His own image. As we all bear the image of God, we are to love what God loves. Seeing that God loves people, to the extent that He incarnated Himself and died for them, it follows that we ought to love what God loves. If we cannot love what God loves, it is doubtful that we love God. (1 John 4:20-21) *If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? (21) And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.*

As Christians We Are To Love One Another

Loving God and others are the two greatest commandments, (Mark 12:29-31) *And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: (30) And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. (31) And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.*

Love is the proof of discipleship, (John 13:34-35) *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. (35) By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

We are to be unselfish in our love, (Matthew 22:39) *And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

Christ gives us the standard of love, (John 15:12) *This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.*

We are to be sincere in our love, (Romans 12:9, BBE) *Let love be without deceit. Be haters of what is evil; keep your minds fixed on what is good.*

We are to increase our love for one another, (1 Thessalonians 3:12) *And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you.*

We are to have great love for one another, (1 Peter 1:22, NKJV) *Seeing all of you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto sincere love of the brethren, see that all of you love one another with a pure heart fervently.*

As Christians We Are To Love Our Families

Husbands are to love their wives, (Ephesians 5:25, 28, 33) *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it... (28) So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself... (33) Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.*

Elderly women are to teach younger women to love their families, (Titus 2:1-4, GodsWord) *Tell believers to live the kind of life that goes along with accurate teachings. (2) Tell older men to be sober. Tell them to be men of good character, to use good judgment, and to be well-grounded in faith, love, and endurance. (3) Tell older women to live their lives in a way that shows they are dedicated to God. Tell them not to be gossips or addicted to alcohol,*

but to be examples of virtue. (4) In this way they will teach young women to show love to their husbands and children.

As Christians We Are To Love Our Leaders

We are to esteem our leaders, (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, NKJV) And we plead to you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; (13) And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

As we love God, we submit to the leaders He puts in the church, (Hebrews 13:17) Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.

We Are To Submit To The Leaders Because:

Jesus loves the church so much that He purchased it with His own blood, and gave the church leaders to help oversee it, (Acts 20:28) Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

God gave church leaders to help build the church, (Ephesians 4:11-12) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; (12) For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

God gave church leaders to the church to protect the church, (Hebrews 13:17) Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.

As Christians We Are To Love Our Enemies

Jesus not only wants us to love our neighbors, one another, and our families, but He wants us to love our enemies also. (Matthew 5:43-48) Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. (44) But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; (45) That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. (46) For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? (47) And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than others*? do not even the publicans so? (48) Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

We Grow In Knowledge As We Grow In Love

(Colossians 2:2, GodsWord) Because they are united in love, I work so that they may be encouraged by all the riches that come from a complete understanding of Christ. He is the mystery of God.

Answers to the Questions

What are the two greatest commandments?

- Loving God and each other, Mark 12:29-31.

Give one reason why we should love each other?

- Love is the proof of discipleship, John 13:34-35.
- Loving each other proves that we love God, 1 John 4:20-21.
- God commands us to, John 15:12.