

Volume VI
Perfect Love
The Highest Law and Strongest Force

Love is the Highest Law and Strongest Force in the Kingdom of God.

- **Love is as strong as death, it is like a fire that rivers and floods cannot quench**, and it is so precious that no amount of money can buy it – declared by King Solomon in the Old Testament (Song of Solomon 8:6-7). Apostle Paul continues with this powerful message of love in the New Testament when he states: *“For I am persuaded beyond doubt (am sure) that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor things impending and threatening nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:38-39).*
- **Love is the only motive accepted by God for working in His Kingdom.** *“Though I have all spiritual gifts . . . give all my goods to the poor . . . give my body to be burned, and have not love, it is nothing” (1 Cor. 13:1-3).*
- **Love is greater than faith**, without which no man can please God: *“Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.” (1 Cor. 13:13). For in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith activated and energized and expressed and working through love” (Gal. 5:6).*
- **Love is greater than doctrine.** Our world will be lost if they are not reached with the doctrinal truths of God’s Word, but the Word of God is not meant to be argued or debated. **Love is the bridge over which truth is transported. Love is the only effective delivery agent for the gospel message.** To be effective, like Jesus Christ, our declaration of the gospel must be delivered in love: *“We will **speak the truth in love**, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church” (Eph. 4:15).*
- **Love binds us together in unity:** *“Above all, clothe yourselves with **love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony**” (Col. 3:14). NLT*
- **Love is the foundation and driving force for everything that is meaningful** and lasting in the Kingdom of God. It is the currency of God’s Kingdom. It is the key element required to produce revival and evangelism, with miracles and signs, like the first century church in the book of Acts that shook their known world.

God's Warning to the Church of Ephesus -- "You Have Left Your First Love"

Recorded in bold, clear and sobering detail is:

1. God's commendation of the wonderful traits of the Ephesian believers.
2. God's condemnation of the single failure of the heart that seemingly negated the wonderful works of the church: "*Thou hast left thy first love.*"
3. God's warning of judgment for having left their first love and the commandment to repent.

Rev. 2:2-5

*I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou cannot bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, **because thou hast left thy first love.** Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, **and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.***

*4 But I have this complaint against you. **You don't love me or each other as you did at first!***
NLT

There were so many good things about the Ephesus church that it seems they were almost perfect. But the Lord said, "*I have somewhat against you*" -- only one thing against you -- "***Thou hast left thy first love.***"

The Ephesian church had done many things well:

1. They were commended for their labor. "*I know thy works, and thy labour.*" The church at Ephesus was hard working.
2. They were commended for their patience. God noted both the external works and their heart of longsuffering.
3. They stood for the truth of God's Word and actively exposed false doctrine. For a church to mix a little error with truth is an unforgivable sin that causes people to be deceived and lost.
4. They were commended for removing false teachers from their congregation. Their one fault began in their heart. The Lord can do without our achievements, but not without our love. The saints at Ephesus were not reprimanded with having changed their doctrinal views. But Jesus placed His finger on their heart and said: "There has been a change here."

The greatest challenge to us as Christians is to guard our heart: "*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life*" (Prov. 4:23).

The last voice of the Bible was penned by the Apostle John, now an elderly man on the isle of Patmos. In this last book, the book of Revelation, he identified the potentially fatal flaw in the church of Ephesus -- "*You have left your **first love.***" "*You don't love me or each other as you*

did at first” (Rev. 2:4). NLT His writings warned them to repent and do their first works or their light would be turned to darkness by God.

The Apostle John recorded only a few verses related to our love for God. However, his extensive writings regarding love pertain to loving the brotherhood.

It would be very easy to accept the principle that “**first love**” refers only to our love for God, because loving Him is easy. He is magnificent, loving, kind, gracious, merciful, and beautiful. He is longsuffering, forgiving and everything wonderful. He is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, infinite, indescribable, immeasurable and so much more. He holds our very breath and life in His hand and will be our Judge at the end of our sojourn.

Serving, worshipping and loving God must be our first priority. But the pre-condition to truly loving God is to first love our brother. Jesus demands such and accepts us as His disciples only as we love one another -- the body of Christ. “**First love**” includes love for God and love for the brotherhood because both are a part of one body and the body of Christ cannot be divided or separated.

(1) Loving God with all our heart includes loving our brother.

The term, “I love the Lord with all my heart” is probably the most misused and untrue statement in all of Christianity. Because the only way for this to be true, is to love our brother with all our heart: “*Esteeming him better than yourself*” (Phil. 2:3). Our love for God is manifested and measured by our love for the brotherhood: “*I demand that you love each other as much as I love you*” (John 15:12) TLB. “*If we love one another, His love is perfected in us*” (1 John 4:12).

(2) Loving God and loving our brother are completely and indivisibly linked, because our love for God is manifested by our love for our brother. Our love for God (*the invisible*) is manifested by our love for our brother (*the visible*), as shown by many Scriptures penned by the Apostle John.

“He who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen” (1 John 4:20).

1 John 4:20-21

*20 If anyone says, I love God, and detests his brother [in Christ], he is a liar; **for he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, Whom he has not seen.***

21 And this command (charge, order, injunction) we have from Him: that he who loves God shall love his brother [believer] also. AMP

(3) The Apostle John states that we cannot be in true fellowship with God if we do not love our brother: “*And this is his commandment: We must love one another, just as he commanded us. Those who obey God’s commandments remain in fellowship with Him, and he with them*” (1 John 3:23-24). NL

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L O V E

Intense deep devotion for someone or something.

Love in its purest form would drive someone to give their life for a cause or a person.

Love is inconveniencing yourself for someone's benefit.

Love will drive you to sacrifice your time, energy and finances for someone in need.

**LOVE WILL ALWAYS HAVE TWO COMPONENTS:
"COMPASSION & CARE"**

Compassion is the Emotion -

It is the deep sorrow and sympathy for the suffering or trouble of others accompanied by a strong urge to help.

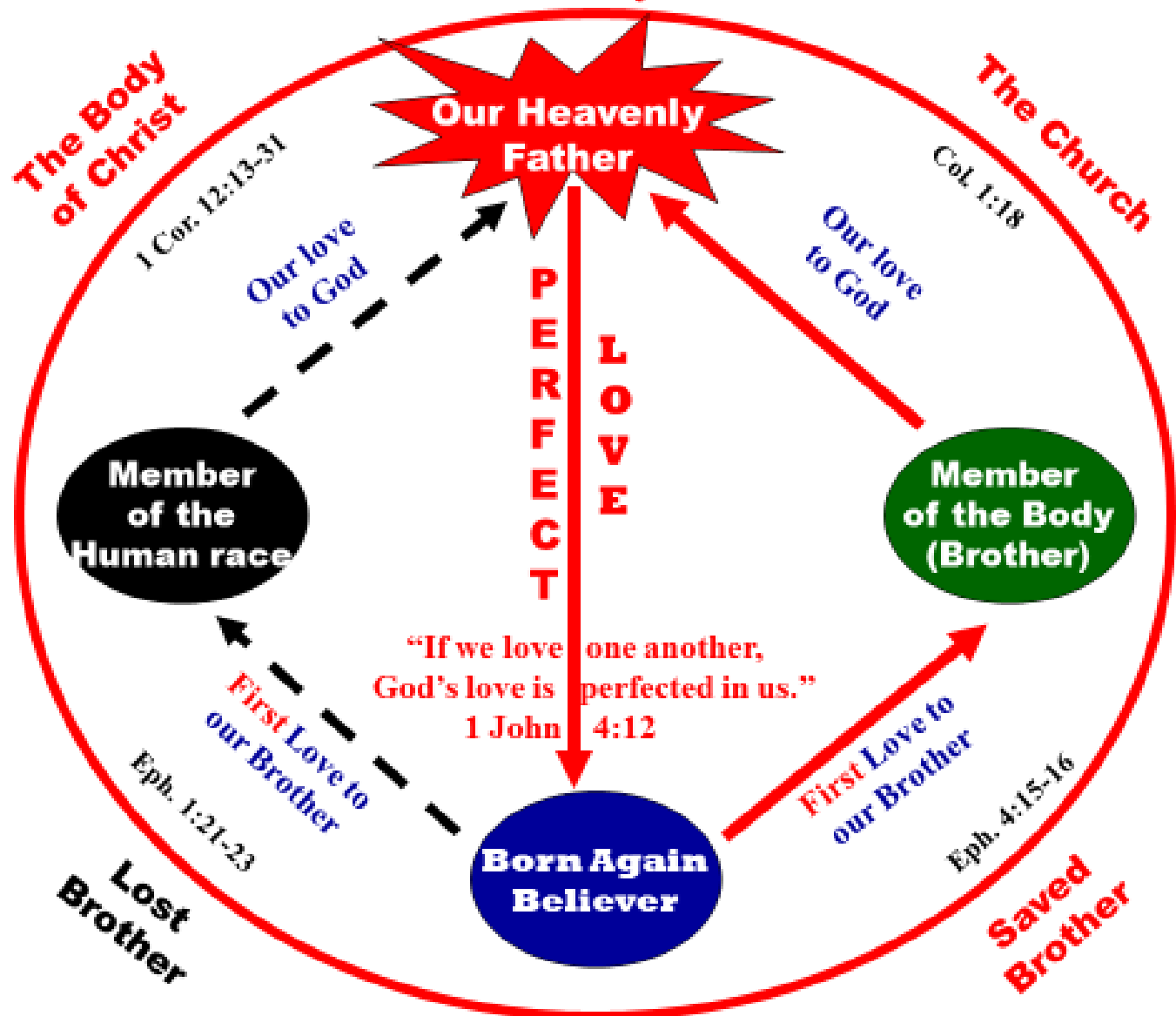
Care is the Action -

It means to provide for or protect against trouble and want. It is feeling a great responsibility and concern for the welfare of someone to the extent that action will be taken to do something to affect their welfare and comfort.

Jesus came to earth to:

- See and Feel (Compassion)**
- Touch and Heal (Care)**

Our Love to God is Measured by Our Love to Our Brother



Our love to God is manifest and measured by our love to our brother.

When love **FIRST** flows within the family of God, the brotherhood, it is then most effective in flowing to lost souls !

"Christ puts us together in one piece, whose very breath and blood flow through us. He is the Head and we are the body." (Col. 2:19) msg.

"Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it to one of the least of these, ye did it to me." Matt 25:45

Do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. (Gal. 6:10)

LOVE

Is the bridge over which truth is transported!

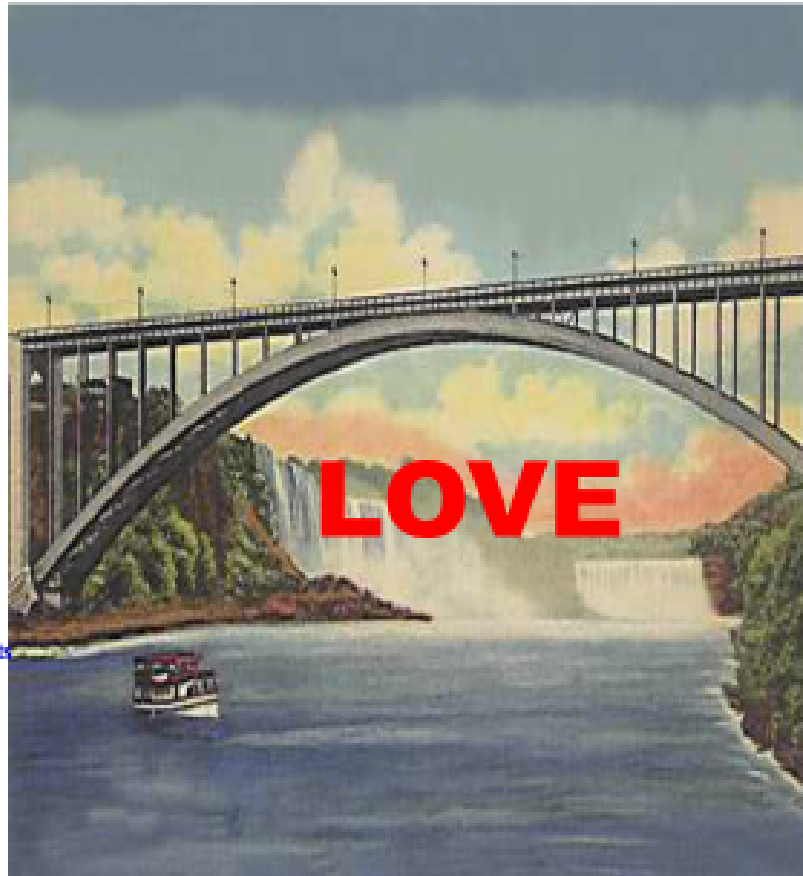
Eph. 4:15 We will **speak the truth in love**, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

John 3:16 For **God so loved** the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Luke 10:27 Thou shalt **love the Lord thy God** with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and **thy neighbour as thyself**.

GOD'S SUPPLY:

- **Truth**
 - > Doctrine
 - **Spirit**
 - > Gift of the Holy Ghost
 - > Gifts of the Spirit
 - Wisdom
 - Knowledge
 - Faith
 - Healing
 - Miracles
 - Prophecy
 - Discerning of Spirits
 - Tongues
 - Interpretation of Tongues
- (1 Cor. 12:7-11)



MAN'S NEED:

- **Salvation**
- **Healing**
- **Deliverance**

GOD

>>>> God uses man to flow His love and truth to those in need >>>>

MAN

2 Cor. 5:18 God hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation

Power is safe only in the hands of love!

The gifts of the Spirit flow through the **charity (love) channel:**

1 Cor. 13:2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and **have not charity, I am nothing.**
3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and **have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.**

**Perfect Love is the Foundation for Humility and
Unity Required for Another Pentecost**

