

LOVE

A long time ago, by the shore of Galilee, in the prosperous fishing village of Capernaum, a crowd gathered to listen to a dynamic new teacher. Great excitement grew among the people because the teacher taught with great authority about an exciting new way to live.

The fishing community responded favorably to the teacher and he became very popular; however, the political leaders adapted slowly to His way of thinking.

A lawyer made his way through the crowd because he wanted to test the teacher. The lawyer asked, “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

The teacher replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with your entire mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second commandment is similar.”

The crowd gathered closer to listen with great interest . . .

THE TEN TESTAMENTS

A new commandment I give you:
Love one another.
As I have loved you,
so you must love one another.
All men will know that you are my disciples
if you love one another
John 13:34-35



TESTAMENT I

I WILL LOVE MY NEIGHBOR

Since the beginning of time, people have searched for the key to happiness. *To love my neighbor* is the key to happiness.

Who is my neighbor?

- My neighbor includes all people, because everyone is a child of God.
- My neighbor is anyone whom I have the opportunity to serve at any given moment.
- My neighbor is the man or woman I see walking on the street or shopping in the market.
- My neighbor is a fellow worker, a teammate, or a customer.
- My neighbor is my sister, my brother, my mother, and my father.
- My neighbor is a close friend as well as my enemy.
- My neighbor is the homeless, the elderly, and the sick.
- My neighbor is anyone to whom I can offer a smile, a gesture of politeness, or a greeting of “hello.”

Because everyone is equal in God’s eyes, I will love all of God’s people. I will treat all men and women like members of my own family. I will praise all children so they will feel important, and I will love and respect the elderly, as well as the mentally and physically challenged.

I will love my neighbor.

I will treat my neighbor in the manner I desire to be treated. I will employ the “Golden Rule” to convert a neighbor into a friend. I will carefully select the thoughts, words, and actions I send toward my neighbor, knowing he or she will most likely

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Do to others
as you would have them do to you.
Luke 6:31



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return them to me. If I send love, my neighbor will return love. If I send anger, my neighbor will return anger. If I send generosity, my neighbor will return generosity. No matter what expression I send, I will choose an expression of love.

I will love my neighbor.

I will not allow a day to pass when I haven't made an attempt to befriend at least one person. I have the opportunity to send a message of love to every person I meet. Because love must be created, I will make an effort to begin a conversation, to share a kind gesture, or to perform a good deed. When I meet a new acquaintance, I realize that the opportunity to begin a friendship is here and now, because we may never cross paths again.

I will love my neighbor.

I will not rely on first impressions when I meet a new acquaintance and I will not judge an individual based on appearance, race, sex, or religion. Nor will I judge an individual based on wealth, education, or possessions. I will celebrate the fact that everyone is created equal, but different. I will not judge anyone, because I realize that my neighbors are at different maturity levels and we all are subject to many different circumstances. Therefore, I intend to share love with everyone I meet.

I have the opportunity to love and serve my neighbor in many ways:

- I will use my arms to reach out to strangers.
- I will use my feet to visit the sick.
- I will use my hands to pick up those who have fallen.
- I will use my ears to listen to the downhearted.
- I will use my voice to encourage the weak.
- I will use my heart to love my neighbor.

I will love God, my Creator, most of all. God created human beings in His image. God *is* love, and He is the source of all

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Love your enemies and pray
for those who persecute you,
that you may be sons
of your Father in heaven
Matthew 5:44-45



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love. God loves me and I vow to spread His love to everyone I meet. He knows what is in my heart. I will radiate His love by serving the needs of others. I am not ashamed to serve others, because when I do, I know I am serving God.

I will make an extra effort to share love with those considered to be my enemies. I find it easy to love those who love me; however, it's not as easy to love those who do not love me, those who hurt me, or those who slander me. I know that love has the power to convert an enemy into a friend. If someone ignores me, I will smile and say, "Hello." If someone injures me, I will turn my cheek and be willing to receive additional abuse. If people slander me, I will avoid the temptation to gossip about them with my tongue. I will use the contagious power of love to warm the hearts of others.

- I will smile at those who frown.
- I will wave at those who step in front of me.
- I will extend a handshake to those who do not welcome me.
- I will love my neighbor.

I will not permit a natural or synthetic barrier to separate me from my neighbor. However, I am determined to go out of my way to visit a neighbor in order to show love and kindness. I will build bridges over obstacles and clear paths through politics in order to show love toward my neighbor.

I will love my neighbor.

There is one prerequisite to loving my neighbor: I must love myself so that I can give love to others. If I love myself, I find it easier to attract love into my life. And when I love myself, I am filled with the kind of love God gives me to share with others. Since I must love my neighbor as I love myself, I must first love myself.

THE TEN TESTAMENTS



LOVE

The greatest act of love is to lay down one's life for a neighbor. If I see a neighbor in a life-threatening situation, I will offer assistance, within reason, hoping my neighbor would do the same for me.

Love creates an atmosphere of sharing and helping. It brings people closer so we can work in harmony toward a common goal rather than compete in an environment promoting winning and losing.

Love is the greatest form of communication. It makes people happy and strengthens relationships with trust and respect. Love brings people closer so that life becomes more meaningful.

I will use the power of love whenever I come in contact with another human being.

I will love my neighbor.