

# IMPACT

**I** **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday  
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-  
standing; in *all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

**Passage:** Galatians 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” Galatians 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall **love** your neighbor as yourself.”

**Quote:** “The loveless life is the ungodly life; and the godly life is the serving, caring, tenderhearted, affectionate, self-giving, self-sacrificing life of Christ’s love working through the believer.” J. MacArthur

**T**herefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, *because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*<sup>1</sup> It is our peace with God and the love of God that enables Christians to obey the mandate to love our enemies. Jesus taught, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, *love your enemies*, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect [“finished, complete, holy”<sup>2</sup>], just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”<sup>3</sup> We must strive to imitate God’s love. A tall order!

The love produced by the Holy Spirit evidences itself through obedience to God’s Word and active concern about the welfare of others for their soul’s sake. God Himself is the clearest example of love that is

characterized by sacrificial giving for the one loved. “God so *loved* the world that *He gave* His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”<sup>4</sup>

In I Corinthians 13, Paul gives a detailed description of the love produced by the Holy Spirit. Love patiently bears injury and insult without resentment or retaliation. Love is kind and courteous. “Under all provocations and ill-usage it is gentle and mild.”<sup>2</sup> Love is not unhappy over the good fortune of others; it does not wish to get what they have. Love does not brag about personal possessions or talents. Love does not harbor prideful, arrogant thoughts or feelings; it is not bloated with self-conceit, but “in lowliness of mind will esteem others better than self.”<sup>5</sup> Love is not offensive or rude, “but behaves with reverence and respect toward superiors, with kindness and condescension to inferiors, with courtesy and good will towards all men.”<sup>6</sup> Love never seeks an advantage at the expense or the neglect of others. Love is not easily irritated or provoked to anger. Love is not quick to think evil of another or to question motives.

Love takes no pleasure in hearing of the misfortunes or the sins of others. Love rejoices at the triumph of truth in the lives of others. Love does not advertise the faults and weaknesses of others. Love is not suspicious, but believes the best about others and “will stretch its faith beyond appearances for the support of a kind opinion” about others.<sup>2</sup> Love sees the positive side of things and hopes for the best. Love patiently endures injuries or insults without seeking revenge.

Paul concludes, “Now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” In Heaven, faith will be replaced by sight. Hope will be replaced by all that God has promised to those who trust Christ as their Savior. Love, on the other hand, will not only endure, but will grow in the very presence of God Who is love! What areas of biblical love are lacking in your life and are in need of prayer? *Are you a loving person?*

<sup>1</sup> Romans 5:1-5 <sup>2</sup> A. Barnes <sup>3</sup> Matthew 5:43-48 This is our goal—to be like God <sup>4</sup> John 3:16 and Romans 5:6-8 <sup>5</sup> Philippians 2:3 <sup>6</sup> Matthew Henry