

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 understanding; in *all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: II Peter 1:2-6 “...But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.”

Quote: “And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” I Corinthians 13:13

The love that we are to add to our faith refers to love for others that results in keeping a burden for their souls foremost in our thoughts. It is ‘that divine love which is produced in the heart of the yielded believer by the Holy Spirit, and which impels him to deny himself for the benefit of the one loved.’¹ It involves doing what is right, even for our enemies. Christ taught, “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back. And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise....”² Is there any better impetus for believers to demonstrate love than the truth that when we were God’s enemies, He reconciled us to Himself by the death of His Son.³ Romans 5:7-9 “For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him” —

Servant of the great Jehovah, yet His Son Christ still remained when He sent Him forth from glory to be battered, marred and shamed. Oh, the price that God demanded! Oh the scourge that was Christ's lot when He drank salvation's dreges to remove sin's scarlet blot! Far more fearful than man's torture, far more painful than the tree, was the Father's dark rejection of

His Son on Calvary. Such a Son Who knew no blemish; *such a love that bade Him go!* God, as Father, suffered anguish when He smote the Savior so. Down into the tomb they took Him. Death laid claim upon the Man Who, as God, had known no bound'ries save those chosen in His plan. Hordes of Hades scorned Light's Champion as they sensed His “helpless” state, Little knowing God Incarnate would break forth, death's chains to break. Blazing glory pierced sin's darkness as the Prince of Peace walked free! Gone the bonds man's sin created. Now, through Christ, there's liberty! Glory, glory to the Father. Glory to the risen Son—spotless Lamb Who won redemption, interceding for His own.

Intent on testing Christ, a Pharisee asked, “‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?’ Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ *On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.*”⁴ In other words, practice these perfectly, and you will have fulfilled the Law! While that is impossible for anyone but Christ, we must remember that to the degree that we are unloving, we are ungodly, for God is love. When it comes to loving God with all of our being and our neighbor as our self, we come up miserably short. But Biblical love should be our goal. As it relates to saints and sinners, love edifies or builds up others by being patient and kind. As it relates to self, love is not jealous, boastful, proud, or rude. As it relates to sin, love does not seek its own advantage, nor is it easily provoked into keeping a record of wrongs incurred. Love is never glad about injustice or unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. As it relates to difficult circumstances, “love bears what otherwise is unbearable; it believes what otherwise is unbelievable; it hopes in what otherwise would be hopeless; and it endures when anything less than love would give up.”⁵ True Christianity expresses itself in love that is unconditional, unreserved,⁶ unending and unselfish.

**Add love to
your faith**

¹ Wuest's Word Studies ² Luke 6:27-36; ³ Romans 5:10 ⁴ Matthew 22:36-40 ⁵ J. MacArthur ⁶ Matthew 5:44-48