

# 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:** Mark 12:30-31 “And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

**Quote:** “Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love. Take my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for thy courts above.” Robert Robinson

**T**he last IMPACT stressed the truth that true accomplishment must remain focused on love for God and concern for the eternal welfare of others. That love is expressed through obedience to His Word. No one personified this better than Jesus. The love that God demands is the kind of unselfish love that moved Him to send His Son into the world of time and space “to save His people from their sin.” That salvation is evidenced by our taking heed to the Word of God.<sup>1</sup> Jesus said, “He who has My commandments and keeps them, *it is he who loves Me*. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.... If anyone loves Me, *he will keep My word*; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words.”<sup>2</sup>

Biblical love is active; it always demonstrates itself by doing that which glorifies God Who is love. When Robert Robinson wrote, “Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love,” he echoed the words of David who prayed, “With my whole heart I have sought You; *Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!* Oh, how I love Your law! It is *my meditation all the day*. My soul keeps Your testimonies, and I love them exceedingly. I keep Your precepts and Your testimonies, for all my ways are before You.”<sup>3</sup> David connected his love for God with a love for God’s Word. It is only through studying, loving and obeying the Word of God that we can know God and love Him as we ought. It is only through praying for grace and wisdom that we can keep from wandering from His commandments and into sin that is a vile offense to Him.

For most people, love for family takes top priority. Yet Christ said that no other love should come before our love for Him. “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”<sup>4</sup> We glorify the Lord most by keeping our love for Him as our top priority. That will not happen naturally; it takes purpose, priority, prayer and practice.

How does biblical love manifest itself in our interaction with others? The Greek word for this love is *agape*—a deliberate demonstration of sacrificial and unconditional kindness for the highest good of the person or object loved. *Agape* far exceeds the love of passion, or the fondness between family and friends because it is part of the fruit of the Spirit. *Agape* is **unmerited**; it cannot be earned. *Agape* is **unconditional**; it has no prerequisites of any kind. *Agape* is **unreserved**; it has no areas that it does not address. *Agape* is **unrelenting**; it never

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ceases to fulfill its duty. *Agape* is **unselfish**; it often involves sacrifice for the one loved. *Agape* is **unpretentious**; it does not flaunt itself. William Barclay: wrote, “If we regard a person with *agape*, it means that no matter what that person does to us, no matter how he treats us, no matter if he insults us or injures us or grieves us, we will never allow any bitterness against him to invade our hearts, but will regard him with that unconquerable benevolence and goodwill which will seek nothing but *his highest good*. *Agape* “is not something which we cannot help; it is something which we have to will ourselves into doing” (enabled by the Holy Spirit). It is in fact a victory over the (self-centeredness) which comes instinctively to the natural man.”

I Corinthians 13 ends with “Now abides faith, hope, love, these three; but *the greatest of these is love*.” Faith will be replaced by sight. Hope will be replaced by all that God has promised to those who embrace Christ as their Savior. Love will not only endure, but will grow in the very presence of its Source—the Triune God!

<sup>1</sup> Ps.119:74 <sup>2</sup> John 14:21-24 <sup>3</sup> Psa. 119:10, 97, 167-168 <sup>4</sup> Matt. 10:37