

Love One Another

Jesus is the prophet of love... Jesus came above all to teach us love. It constitutes the content of the greatest commandment he left to us. True love of one's neighbor is, at the same time, love of God. Some people may be astonished by this. It certainly IS astonishing!

Pope John Paul II

Love of God and love of neighbor are inseparably united. When the Lord Jesus presents to us, his listeners, the vision of the Last Judgment, he says: "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink." Those who listen to these words are surprised, since we hear them ask: "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you?" And the answer; "I tell you, solemnly, insofar as you did this for one of the least of these brothers, you did it for me" (*Matt. 37-40*).

Love Jesus especially in those who are suffering in any way: physically, morally, spiritually. Make a resolution to do all you can to love your neighbors, discovering Christ's face in them.

Pope John Paul II

The parable of the Good Samaritan (*Lk 10:24-37*)...

Until that time, the concept of "neighbor" was understood as referring essentially to one's countrymen and to foreigners who had settled in the land of Israel; in other words, to the closely-knit community of a single country or people. This limit is now abolished. Anyone who needs me, any whom I can help, is my neighbor. The concept of "neighbor" is now universalized, yet it remains concrete.

Pope Benedict XVI

We are to be the Universal Brother... We are to overcome barriers and divisions of race and ideology... We are to be signs of God's love in the world – a love without exclusion or partiality.

Pope John Paul II

We should especially mention the great parable of the last Judgment (*Mt 25:31-46*), in which love becomes the criterion for the definitive decision about a human life's worth or lack thereof. Jesus identifies himself with those in need, with the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and those in prison. "As you did it for one of the least of these my brethren, you did it for me" (*Mt 25:40*). Love of God and love of neighbor have become one: in the least of the brethren we find Jesus himself, and in Jesus we find God.

Pope Benedict XVI

Do not grieve or complain that you were born in a time when you can no longer see God in the flesh. That privilege has not, in fact, been taken from you. As Jesus says, "Whatever you have done for the least of these, you have done for Me."

St. Augustine

If in my life I fail completely to heed others, solely out of a desire to be “devout” and to perform my “religious duties”, then my relationship with God will also grow arid. It becomes merely “proper”, but loveless. Only my readiness to encounter my neighbor and to show him love makes me sensitive to God as well. Only if I serve my neighbor can my eyes be opened to what God does for me and how much he loves me.

Pope Benedict XVI

If you see charity, you see the Trinity.

St. Augustine

You as a community must do all in your power to be formed in the image of God. And what do find in God? We see equality of persons and unity of essence. What should that teach you if not that you should all be one and equal?

St. Vincent de Paul

“God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.” (1 Jn 4:16) These words from the First Letter of John express with remarkable clarity the heart of the Christian faith.

Pope Benedict XVI

The pious Jew prayed daily the words of the Book of Deuteronomy which expressed the heart of his existence: “Hear, O Israel: the Lord your God is one Lord, and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your might (6:4-5). Jesus united into a single precept this commandment of love for God and the commandment of love for neighbor found in the Book of Leviticus: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (19:18; cf. Mk 12:29:31). Love of God and love of neighbor are thus inseparable, they form a single commandment.

Pope Benedict XVI

Jesus came into this world for one purpose. He came to give us the Good News that God loves us, that God is love, that God loves you and that God loves me. Jesus wants us to love one another as he loves each one of us. Let us love him. How did Jesus love you and me? By giving his life. He gave all that he had, his life, for you and me. He died on the cross because he loves us, and wants us to love one another as he loves each one of us. When we look at the cross, we know how he loves us.

Mother Theresa of Calcutta

There is no better or more necessary work than love.

St. John of the Cross

Where there is no love, put love, and there you will find love.

St. John of the Cross

For my part I know of no other means to arrive at perfection except love. To love – how well our hearts are made for that!

St. Therese of Lisieux

The only thing of value we can offer to God is to give our love to people who are as unworthy of it as we are of God's love.

St. Catherine of Siena

The way of salvation is easy, it is enough just to love.

St. Margaret of Cortona

Pick up a pin for the love of God, and count the day well spent.

St. Therese of Lisieux

To pick up a straw with loving intention is more to God than to remove mountains without love.

Gerhard Tersteegen

The affections of the godly are reverent to everyone, for their desire to do good is pleasant. Their meeting with others is in cheerfulness. Their dwelling together is in grace. Their going out to reach others is an evidence of love.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

I do not say that sin should not be displeasing to you and that you should not hold it in the greatest horror; but I do say you should never judge the sinners, and moreover, I say that you should never despise them, for you know not the judgments of God.

Blessed Angela of Foligno

To love a human being means to accept him as he is. If you don't want to love him until he has gotten rid of his faults, until he is different, you are only loving an idea.

Blessed Julian of Norwich

I do not condemn other men's consciences. Their consciences must save them, and mine must save me.

St. John Fisher

Do you want to know one of the best ways to win over people and lead them to God? It consists in giving them joy and making them happy.

St. Francis of Assisi

I would rather make mistakes in kindness and compassion than work miracles in unkindness and hardness.

Mother Theresa of Calcutta

Nothing is so strong as gentleness; nothing is so gentle as real strength.

St. Francis de Sales

I have never, never in all my life, succeeded when I spoke with the faintest trace of harshness. I have always noted that if one wishes to move another's mind one must be ever so careful not to embitter that person's heart.

St. Vincent de Paul

A troubled woman came to the Indian saint and sage Ramakrishna, saying, "O Master, I do not find that I love God." And he asked, "Is there nothing, then, that you love?" To this she answered, "My little nephew." And he said to her, "There is your love and service to God, in your love and service to that child."

Joseph Campbell

Charity is greater than any rule. Moreover, all rules must lead to charity.

St. Vincent de Paul

Do not become upset or feel guilty because you interrupted your prayer to serve the poor. God is not neglected if you leave him for such service... Charity is certainly greater than any rule. Moreover, all rules must lead to charity.

St. Vincent de Paul

Love one another for the Love of Christ and show forth by your actions the love which reigns in your hearts, so that encouraged by each other's example, you may continue to grow in love for God and greater charity for one another.

St. Clare of Assisi

The more our hearts remember our neighbor, the more they will also recall God. These two loves grow side by side.

St. John of the Cross

If my love for my Sisters of OK, then my love for Jesus will be OK. These are not two loves. The deeper my love for Jesus, the deeper my love for my Sisters.

Mother Theresa of Calcutta

The more holy someone is, the more cordial they should be with others. Although you may be pained because their conversation is not what you wish, never keep aloof if you want to help them and win their love.

St. Teresa of Avila

If you want to see how much love is related to heaven, just look at the bride and groom at the altar on the day of the nuptial Mass. Heaven is there – heaven is there because love is there.

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead.

St. John Chrysostom

The school of Christ is the school of charity. On the last day, when general examination takes place, there will be no questions at all on the text of Aristotle, the aphorisms of Hippocrates, or the Paragraphs of Justinian. Charity will be the whole syllabus.

St. Robert Bellarmine

Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion looks out on the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good. And yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now.

St. Teresa of Avila

Love cannot remain by itself – it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action and that action is service. How do we put the love for God in action? By being faithful to our family, to the duties that God entrusted to us. Whatever form we are, able or poor, it is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing.

Mother Theresa of Calcutta

The vocation to love makes the human person an authentic image of God: Man and woman come to resemble God to the extent that they become loving people.

Pope Benedict XVI

God is love which saves, a loving father who wants to see his children look upon one another as brothers and sisters, working responsibly to place their various talents at the service of the common good.

Pope Benedict XVI

If anyone says, "My love is fixed on God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. One who has no love for the brother he has seen cannot love the God he has not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

1 John 4:21-21

Beloved, let us love one another because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten of God and has knowledge of God. The person without love has known nothing of God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed in our midst in this way: he sent his only Son to the world that we might have life through him.

Love then, consists in this: not that we have loved God, but that he has loved us and has sent his Son as an offering for our sins.

Beloved, if God has loved us so, we must have the same love for one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet if we love one another, God dwells in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.

1 John 4:7-12

We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us.

God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

1 John 4:16

You are acting rightly if you fulfill the law of the kingdom. Scripture has it, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

James 2:8

Get rid of all bitterness and passion and anger, harsh words, slander, and malice of every kind. In place of these, be kind to one another, compassionate, and mutually forgiving, just as God has forgiven you in Christ.

Eph 4:31-32

Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy, with kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you. Over all these virtues put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect.

Col 3:12-14

Out of love, place yourselves at one another's service.

The whole law has found its fulfillment in this one saying: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Gal 5:13b-14

Owe no debt to anyone except the debt that binds us to love one another. He who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal, you shall not covet," and any other commandment there may be are all summed up in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love never wrongs the neighbor, hence love is the fulfillment of the law.

Rm 13:8-10

Jesus said:

"Be compassionate as your heavenly Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn and you will not be condemned. Pardon, and you shall be pardoned."

Luke 6:36-37

Jesus said:

"Treat others the way you would have them treat you: this sums up the law and the prophets."

Matt 7:12

Jesus said:

"I give you a new commandment: Love one another. You must love one another just as I have loved you. This is how all will know you are my disciples: your love for one another."

John 13:34-35

Now I will show you the way which surpasses all the others. If I speak with human tongues and angelic as well, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and, with full knowledge, comprehend all mysteries, if I have faith great enough to move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give everything I have to feed the poor and hand over my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, it is not snobbish. Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong but rejoices with the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure.

1 Cor 13:1-7

Charity cannot be used as a means of engaging in what is nowadays considered proselytism. Love is free; it is not practiced as a way of achieving other ends. Those who practice charity in the Church's name will never seek to impose the Church's faith upon others. They realize that a pure and generous love is the best witness to the God in whom we believe and by whom we are driven to love. A Christian knows when it is time to speak of God and when it is better to say nothing and to let love speak. He knows that God is love (Jn 4:8), and that God's presence is felt at the very time when the only thing we do is to love."

Pope Benedict XVI

There are in the end three things that last: faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love.

You can draw more flies with a spoon-full of honey than with a barrel filled with vinegar.

St. Francis deSales

Jesus, the bread come down from heaven and the bread of life, makes himself visible every day.... where people are served and fed, without distinction of race, religion or culture. Every human, without distinction of race, culture, or religion, is created in the image and likeness of God. Each person is filled with the same dignity.

Pope Benedict XVI

For the Christian there is no such thing as a "stranger." There is only the neighbor... the person near us and needing us.

Blessed Edith Stein

When asked his philosophy as pastor, Pope John XXIII answered: "Observe everything. Ignore much. Correct little."