



THE VISION IS LOVE

The Love That Is Love

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1 John 4:12,19-21

Dave Lomas

1 John 4:12,19-21

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

Love

1 Corinthians 13:13

And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Matthew 22:36

Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

1 John 4:8 & 16

God is love.

John 13:34

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

John 13:35

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 15:12

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”

John 15:17

“This is my command: Love each other.”

1 John 4:19-21

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“I might think it is easier to love God, whom I imagine vaguely as something somewhere that is everything good and lovable, than it is to love my grimy and annoying neighbor, who is so insistently *there*, in my face, making demands. But that is because the god I claim to love is a fantasy of my own creation, not the grimy and annoying God who *is* there, on the cross, making demands. I cannot love that God without loving my neighbor because *that* God has become my neighbor.”

- Frederick Bauerschmidt, *The Love That Is God*

Matthew 25:40

“When you did it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me.”

1 John 4:12, 19-21

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“I ask you to love me with the same love with which I love you. But for me you cannot do this, for I loved you without being loved. Whatever love you have for me you owe me, so you love me not gratuitously but out of duty, while I love you not out of duty but gratuitously. So you cannot give me the kind of love I ask of you.”

- Catherine of Siena, *The Dialogue*

“This is why I have put you among your neighbors: so you can do for them what you cannot do for me—that is, love them without any concern for thanks and without looking for any profit for yourself. And whatever you do for them I will consider done for me.”

- Catherine of Siena, *The Dialogue*

Matthew 5:43-44

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:46-48

If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? *Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

“Before all else, Christ came so that people might learn how much God loves them, and might learn this so that they would catch fire with love for him who first loved

them, and so that they would also love their neighbor as he commanded and show them by his example—he who made himself their neighbor by loving them when they were not close to him but were wandering far from him.”

- St. Augustine, *Instructing Beginners in Faith*

1 John 4:12

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