

**“Love One Another”**  
**1 Peter 1:22-25**  
Pastor John Miller

## **I. Introduction**

- \* Peter is still seeking to encourage and strengthen the suffering saints who were scattered (v. 1)
  - He first did this by telling them of the glory of their salvation (vv. 2-12)
  - chosen by the Father, sanctified by the Spirit, washed in the blood of Jesus (v. 2)
  - born to a living hope (v. 3)
  - kept by God’s power (v. 5)
- A. So great a salvation
  - 1. The prophets predicted it (v. 10)
  - 2. The apostles preached it (v. 12)
  - 3. The angels pondered it (v. 12)
- B. Peter called them to respond to this great salvation by living lives of holy behavior, and he gave them some incentives to holiness.
  - 1. The coming of Jesus Christ (v. 13)
  - 2. The fact that God is holy (vv. 14-16)
  - 3. The fear of God (v. 17)
  - 4. The redemptive work of Christ (vv. 18-21)
- C. Peter moves from holy living to holy loving.
  - 1. “love one another” (v. 22)
  - 2. Our salvation brings us into the family of God. We are brothers and sisters, and God our Father wants us to “love one another.”
- D. Peter is giving us a command (v. 22)
  - 1. It’s an imperative
  - 2. How can he command us to love?
    - a) It’s “agape” love, not a feeling.
    - b) It’s a matter of the will.
    - c) It carries a sense of urgency.
    - d) We should let our love operate to its fullest.
    - e) Peter wants the believers to let God’s love flow through them to others in the family of God.
  - 3. Love is the birthmark of the true child of God.
    - a) Jesus said, “a new commandment” (John 13:34-35)

\* This text answers four questions about the supernatural love we are commanded to show.

## II. When Were Believers Enabled to Love?

- A. "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth." (v. 22)
  - 1. "You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth" (NLT).
- B. Peter is talking about our conversion, the moment of our salvation.
  - 1. Why did Peter say, "You have purified your souls?"
    - a) God purifies, but we "obeyed" or believed and trusted
    - b) We exercise our faith by "obeying the truth"
    - c) We receive cleansing
    - d) It's when we were "born again" (v. 23)
  - 2. When we were saved, we were enabled to love
    - a) How? "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" (Romans 5:5).
  - 3. Christians have the power to love because we have the Holy Spirit.
- C. God would never command you to love without giving you the power to do it.
  - 1. "through the Spirit." (v. 22)
  - 2. Love is the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
    - a) Love's strength (joy)
    - b) Love's security (peace)
    - c) Love's endurance (patience)
    - d) Love's conduct (kindness)
    - e) Love's character (goodness)
    - f) Love's confidence (faithfulness)
    - g) Love's humility (gentleness)
    - h) Love's victory (self-control)
  - 3. If you are saved, you have the power to love one another.
    - a) Marriage, family, church, work, etc.

## III. Who Are We to Love?

- A. "the brethren" (v. 22)
  - 1. In the Greek *Philadelphia*
  - 2. Its fellow Christians
  - 3. It's a witness to the world
- B. True Christians love other Christians
  - 1. They want to be with each other
  - 2. Love your neighbor as yourself

3. Love your enemies

#### **IV. How Are We to Love?**

A. “Sincerely” (v. 22)

1. “Unfeigned love” (K.J.V.)
2. Without hypocrisy
3. Don’t be a phony
4. “Agape” love does not use people; it serves people.

B. “Sacrificially” (v. 22)

1. Greek- *agape*
2. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).
3. “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her” (Ephesians 5:25).
4. “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another” (John 13:34).
5. Philippians 2

C. “Fervently” (v. 22)

1. “With a pure heart”
2. Put your heart into it or go all out.

D. “Forgivingly”

1. “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4:32).
2. Do you forgive others?

E. “Practically”

1. “Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end” (John 13:1).
2. Illustration- The Good Samaritan
3. What do you do to show your love for others?
4. Become Christ’s hands and feet.

## V. Why Should We Love?

### A. “We have been born again.” (v. 23)

1. We have a new nature.
2. What is the “new birth?”
  - a) It’s a spiritual birth.
    - 1) “not of corruptible seed.” (v. 23)
    - 2) “but of incorruptible by the Word of God.” (v. 23)
    - 3) The second birth has two parents (Spirit of God and Word of God).
    - 4) “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” (John 3:6).
  - b) It’s instantaneous
    - 1) Not a process
  - c) It’s irreversible
    - 1) A supernatural event
  - d) It makes us new creations.
    - 1) “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).
    - 2) A new life
    - 3) A new nature
    - 4) A new hope
    - 5) A new supernatural love
    - 6) “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” (Romans 5:5).
    - 7) “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).