

# The Passionate choice to love the Church

Living Radically Different - Genuine Christians passionately LOVE their brothers and sisters 1 Peter 1:22

## *Introduction*

*22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart*

## **#1 WHEN do Christians learn to love? At CONVERSION**

*22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls*

**Romans 6:17** *But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, **Romans 1:5**, through whom we have received grace ... to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles, for His name's sake, **Romans 16:25** the gospel... 26 ... has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith;*

**2 Thessalonians 2:10b** *they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. **Ephesians 1:13** In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,*

**John 3:36** *He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him. **Hebrews 5:9** ... He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation*

**1 Peter 1:2** *according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ **14** As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts*

**James 2:14** *What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him? 17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. **I John 2:4** The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; When true believers evidence obedience to the truth -*

**1 Thessalonians 4:9** *Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another,*

**2 Corinthian 5:17** *if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

**Romans 5:5** *... the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

## **#2 WHO are believers to love? The CHURCH**

*for a sincere love of the brethren,*

**John 15:12** *This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you*

**1 John 4:7-8** *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

**Romans 12:9** *Let love be without hypocrisy*

**Galatians 6:1** *Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. 5 For each one will bear his own load.*

**Romans 12:10a** *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love;*

**Hebrews 13:1** *Let love of the brethren continue*

**John 13:35** *"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

### **#3 HOW are Christians to love each other?**

**By passionate CHOICE fervently love one another from the heart**

**1<sup>st</sup> God COMMANDS you to love**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Your WILL must be engaged to love**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Love is your choice to SACRIFICE**

**4<sup>th</sup> Your love must be INTENSE**

**5<sup>th</sup> Your love must come from the HOLY SPIRIT**

**Galatians 5:22** *the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...*

**Ephesians 5:18** *...be filled with the Spirit,*

### **One - Don't minimize the IMPORTANCE of loving the saints**

**1 Corinthians 13:1** *If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 1 Corinthians 16:22* *If anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed.*

**1 John 4:20** *If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.*

### **Two - True Christ-like love is always according to TRUTH**

**1 John 3:18** *Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.*

### **Three - You can't love like verse 22 teaches, unless you are in CHRIST**

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