

# HE WHO LOVES FULLY FULFILLS GOD'S LAW

## GOLDEN TEXT

“Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.” (Romans 13:8/NKJV)

## USEFUL PRATCTICE

Loving God and others is fully fulfilling the divine law

## SCRIPTURE READING

### Romans 12:8-14 (NIV)

8 - if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

9 - Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

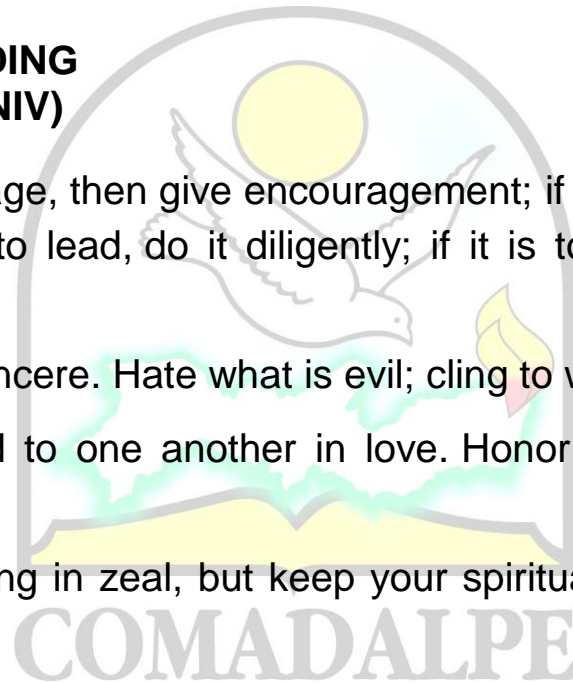
10 - To be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

11 - Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

12 - Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

13 - Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

14 - Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.



## GENERAL OBJECTIVE

To explain that loving God and others is fully fulfilling the divine law.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

I. **To understand** the uniqueness of Agape love;

II. **To show** that we need to love God and our neighbor;

**III. To explain** that under the guardianship of love, we must reject the works of darkness.

## INTRODUCTION

We have already studied some aspects of the fruit of the Spirit and the works of the flesh. We have left to deal with love in one lesson, because the purpose is for us to understand the uniqueness and importance of this aspect of the fruit of the Spirit. We can group together the nine aspects of the fruit of the Holy Spirit as follows: The attributes that deal with our relationship with God: love, peace and joy. Those that refer to our relationship with our neighbor: long-suffering, kindness, and goodness. Those that concern our relationship with ourselves: faithfulness, meekness and self-control. But in this lesson we will see the aspect of love. The greatest mark of a church is not its theology, its temple, traditions, but its love for the Lord Jesus and for others.

### I - THE UNIQUENESS OF AGAPE LOVE

**1. Love, an aspect of the fruit.** Love is the first aspect of the fruit we find on the list in Galatians 5:22. We can say that this feeling is the soil where the other aspects of the fruit must be grown. Paul reports the supreme excellence of love in 1 Corinthians 13. The Greek language has three terms for naming love: **Agape**, divine love; **Phileo**, love between friends, and **Eros**, love between spouses.

**2. Agape love.** The love of God is expressed in Greek by the word **agape**. This term means "self-denying and deep love." One of the attributes of our God is love (1 John 4:8). His love for us is unique. We cannot forget that today we love the Father and our neighbor because divine love came to us first: "We love him because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). What have we done to deserve such a love? We have done nothing. The merit for such a feeling is not ours. But He loved us when we were ungrateful and wicked, and He gave us His Only Begotten Son to die for us (John 3:16).

**3. Agape love poured out on us.** When we received the Lord Jesus by faith, we became a new creation (John 3:3). And so love was grafted upon us that is the essence of the Father. If we are disciples of Christ, we love the Father and others. The love of God in us gives us peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance (Gal. 5:22). Whoever has the love of God respects their neighbor and is always ready to serve everyone, just as our Master did (Mark 10:45).

### II - TO LOVE GOD AND OTHERS

**1. Love for God.** God's love for us is unselfish, selfless, and unique. And the only thing He asks of us is for us also to love Him with all our heart: "[...] You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart [...]" (Mt 22:37). How can we express our love for God? In different ways: by being faithful in our tithing and offering, praise, prayers, reading the Bible, etc. But the best way to express our love for God is by abandoning sin and seeking a holy life. He who loves God takes no pleasure in practicing sin. He who delights in sin does not love the Lord and has never known him. That is why Jesus said that many will say in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name, cast out demons?" The Lord's answer to them will be only one: "[...] I never knew you [...]" (Mt 7:23).

**2. Love for yourself.** Loving yourself may sound like narcissism, but it is not. For if you do not love and accept yourself, how can you love God? Loving oneself is above all a divine commandment: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mt 19:19). We certainly do not like our flaws and imperfections. We are not perfect, but we must put before the Lord everything we are that He will transform us.

**3. Love for the neighbor.** In order to love one's neighbor with agape love, one must love God first. The apostle John says that God is love, he who does not love has never known him (1 Jn 4:7, 8, 12, 20). Once a Pharisee asked Jesus what the great commandment of the Law was. Then the Master taught that loving the Lord with all one's heart and one's neighbor is a summary of all the commandments (Mt 22:37-40). It is important to emphasize that love is not only a feeling, but action. It is not enough to love in words alone. Love as a fruit of the Spirit makes me want for others what I desire for myself. It makes me take pleasure in donating my time, my gifts and talent for the sake of my neighbor.

### III - UNDER THE GUARDIANSHIP OF LOVE, LET US REJECT THE WORKS OF DARKNESS

**1. Under the guardianship of love.** What is guardianship? Guardianship is a "legal responsibility of guarding, representing in civil life and administering the assets of a minor, an incapable or missing person" (in a free translation). So having a guardian means having someone to support, defend and protect you. Outside of the guardianship of agape love, divine love, the believer can return to practice the old fruitless works of the flesh. Without the love of God in us, we are able to love darkness rather than light (John 3:19).

**2. Love, an antidote for sin.** Whoever loves does not betray their

spouse, does not kill, does not steal, does not covet, does not give false testimony, that is, does nothing intended to displease the Heavenly Father. If we want to avoid the works of the flesh, we must fill ourselves with the Holy Spirit and His love (Ephesians 5:18). Love makes us act politely and patiently, showing to the world that we are disciples of Christ (John 13:35).

**3. Love leads to obedience.** Love, a fruit of the Spirit, is not a mere feeling. Loving involves action, attitude (1 John 3:18). What makes a church strong are not its financial resources, its leaders or members, but love revealed through actions and words. Those who love enjoy hearing and obeying the Word of God: "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word ... Whoever does not love me does not keep my words" (Jn 14:23-24). He who loves obeys and lives in a way that pleases the Father.

### CONCLUSION

As a new creature, you must love and show that love through your actions and words. May we pray to the Father for a loving heart, capable of loving even those who declare themselves to be our enemies (Mt 5:44).

