

# WELCOME!

SABBATH GREETINGS FROM GOD THE FATHER AND OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

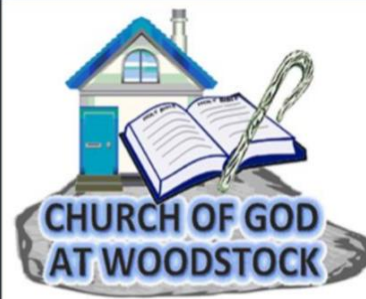


**TRUTH ON THE  
WEB MINISTRIES**

**[WWW.TOTW.ORG](http://WWW.TOTW.ORG)**

EPH 6:17 AND TAKE...THE SWORD OF THE  
SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD

A CHURCH OF GOD IN WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS

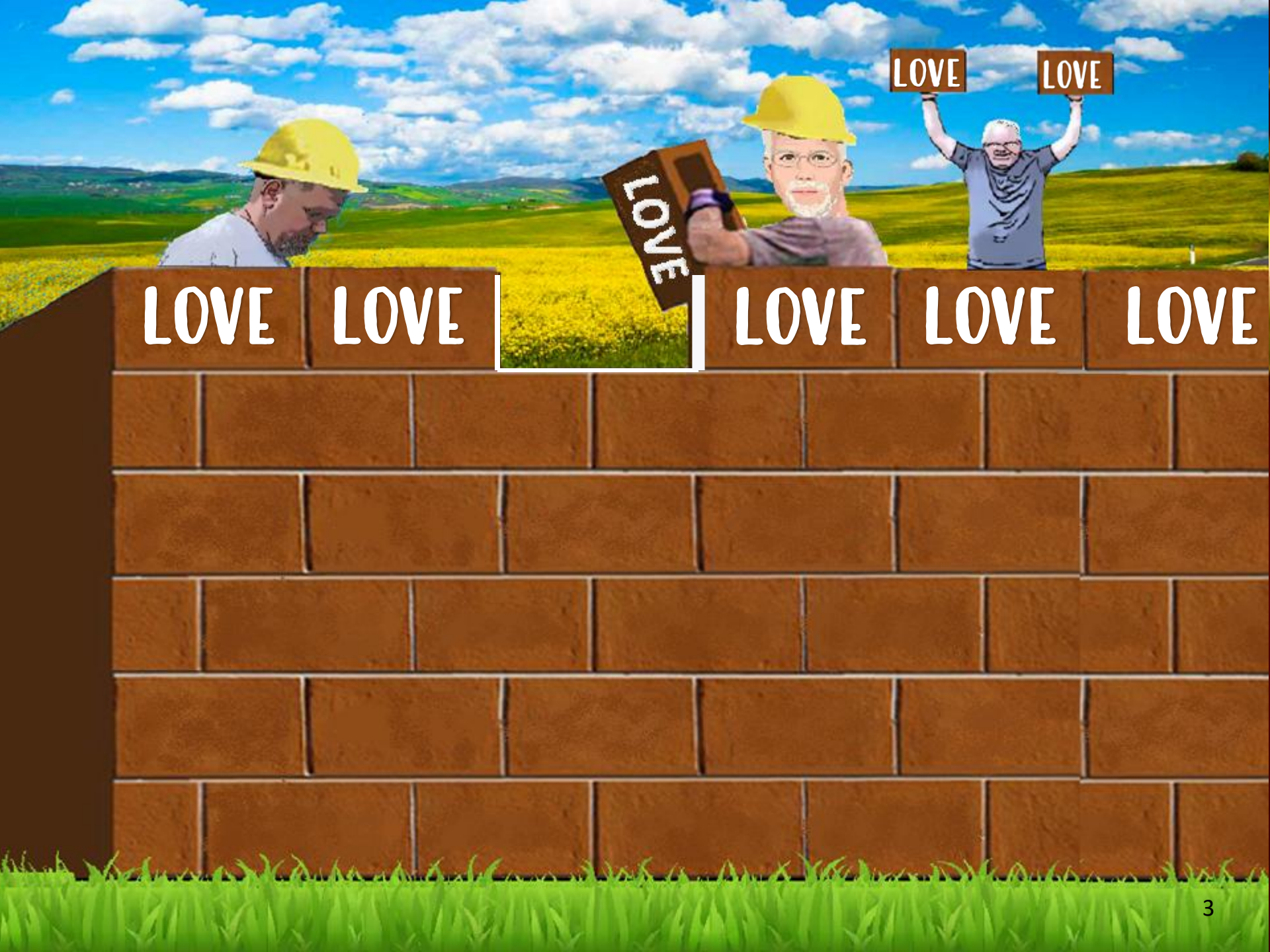


**CHRISTIAN  
CHARACTER  
OF  
LOVE**

**CHRISTIAN  
CHARACTER  
SERIES # 3**

by Kenneth Hoeck





# The Christian Character of Love

1 John 4:7-11 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.



# Put on Love

**Colossians 3:14 And above all these things *put on* charity (LOVE), which is the bond of perfectness.**

- **Abused and misdefined to mean many things opposite of love:**
  - **Eroticism, sensualism, selfishness, greed, covetousness...**
- **Man-made religions have added to the confusion**
  - **Love is not emotionally defined**
  - **Love is not always cheerful, 2 Cor 2:4**

# God is Love 1 John 4:8

To know God we must love as He loves us

Matthew 22:36-40 Master, which *is* the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

# God is Love 1 John 4:8

To know God we must love as He loves us

- Characteristic of disciples of Jesus
- John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.



# God is Love 1 John 4:8

To know God we must love as He loves us

- Our obligation to all
- Romans 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.



# God is Love 1 John 4:8

To know God we must love as He loves us

- **Our motivation**
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.
- Galatians 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

**Love is...**  
**agape**

**“unconquerable  
benevolence,  
undefeatable  
goodwill”**

**Love is an action  
word! John 3:16**

➤ **Keeping God's  
commandments,  
1 John 5:3; 2 John 6;  
Rom 6:17-18**

“...love without law is not sufficient. Love begets a desire to bless, but the law guides to the accomplishment of that desire. Perfect righteousness is the result of wisdom as well as affection. Love without law is power without direction, and law without love is machinery without a motor (#1Co 13:1-3).”

- McGarvey, *The Fourfold Gospel*, 604)



**Love is...**  
***agape***

**“unconquerable  
benevolence,  
undefeatable  
goodwill”**

**Love is an action  
word! John 3:16**

➤ **Doing good to our  
enemies, Luke 6:35-36  
—As we want to be  
treated (Lk 6:31)**

**Luke 6:35-36** But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, **as your Father also is merciful.**

**Luke 6:31** And as ye would that men should do to you, **do ye also to them likewise.**

**Love is...**

***agape***

**“unconquerable  
benevolence,  
undefeatable  
goodwill”**

**Love is an action  
word! John 3:16**

➤ **Disciplining loved ones,**

**Hebrews 12:5-6** And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, **My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.**

**Proverbs 13:24** He that spareth his rod hateth his son: **but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.**

**1 Corinthians 5:5** To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.



# Love is...

## *agape*

“unconquerable  
benevolence,  
undefeatable  
goodwill”

Love is an action  
word! John 3:16

- Forgiving brethren,  
2 Cor 2:6-9
  - Time to rejoice
- Sacrificing for others,  
John 15:13; Rev 12:11
  - Gives itself to benefit others
- Helping the needy,  
1 John 3:14-18
  - Uses its ability to relieve suffering

# Love is...

## *agape*

“unconquerable  
benevolence,  
undefeatable  
goodwill”

Love is an action  
word! John 3:16

- Preaching the gospel, Phil 1:15-17 (Eph 4: 15; 1 Cor 13:6)
  - W/o compromise, to save some (Gal 1:10; 1 Cor 9:22)
- Contributing substance for work of church, 2 Cor 8:24
  - Sign or evidence of love for God and His people



**Love is...**

***agape***

**“unconquerable  
benevolence,  
undefeatable  
goodwill”**

**Love is an action  
word! John 3:16**

- Encouraging the saints,  
Phil 2:1
- Comfort, warn, urge to  
faithfulness
- Sacrificing for your wife,  
Eph 5:23, 25, 28-33  
–Love as Christ and as  
yourself
- Obedying your husband,  
Eph 5:22-24  
–As the church to Christ  
(Titus 2:5)

# **Love is...** ***agape***

**“unconquerable  
benevolence,  
undefeatable  
goodwill”**

**Love is an action  
word! John 3:16**

- **Being courageous in  
faith, 2 Tim 1:7; 1  
John 4:17-19  
–Maturity and  
boldness**
- **Forbearing one  
another, Eph 4:2;  
Colossians 3:13  
–Endure; “holding  
yourselves back  
from one another”**



# **Love is...** ***agape***

**“unconquerable  
benevolence,  
undefeatable  
goodwill”**

**Love is an action  
word! John 3:16**

➤ Not offending weak in  
conscience with your liberty,  
Rom 14:15 (1 Cor 8:9-13)

– Use without regard of weak  
is selfish

➤ Greeting each other, 1 Pet  
5:14

– With glad hearts

➤ Regularly studying Bible,  
Psa 119:97

– What we think on is what we  
love

# Love is... *agape*

“unconquerable  
benevolence,  
undefeatable  
goodwill”

Love is an action  
word! John 3:16

- Our way of  
doing  
EVERYTHING,  
1 Cor 16:14
  - All our motives
  - All our attitudes
  - All our words
  - All our actions

**Love is...**

**The  
Uniting  
Principle  
of our  
Character  
in Christ  
Col 3:14 (10)**

➤ **Character is complete  
as we love fervently  
with a pure heart, 1  
Pet 1:22**

***“And now abide faith,  
hope, and love, these  
three: but the greatest of  
these is love.” (1 Cor  
13:13)***

**WHY?**

**-Because “God is love”**



# The Christian Character of Love

**“16: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”  
(John 3).**

# The Christian Character of Love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** Charity suffereth long (it is patient), *and* is kind (Love never gives up); charity envieth not (it doesn't want what it doesn't have. It does not covet.) ; **charity vaunteth not itself** (does not step outside its boundries; its not boastful), **is not puffed up** (Love is not arrogant or conceited),

# The Christian Character of Love

**1 Corinthians 13:5** Doth not behave itself unseemly (Love doesn't act inappropriately), seeketh not her own (Love is not selfish- does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking), **is not easily provoked** (Love pays no attention to a suffered wrong or, perceived or real, attacking words), **thinketh no evil** (Love puts the best possible construction on the motives and the conduct of others. It means that love is not malicious, censorious, disposed to find fault, or to impute improper motives to others.);



# **The Christian Character of Love**

**1 Corinthians 13:6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth (Love does not take delight when they are guilty of crime, or when, in any manner, they fall into sin. It does not find pleasure in hearing others accused of sin, and in having it proved that they have committed it. It does not find a malicious pleasure in the report that they have done wrong; or in following up that report, and finding it established) ;**

# The Christian Character of Love

**1 Corinthians 13:7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.**

(Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything -without weakening).

# **The Christian Character of Love**

**1 John 4:20-21 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.**



# The Christian Character of Love



Love binds together all virtues of Christian character. Love is not so much a character trait as the inner disposition of the soul that produces them all ... Though love may be more a motivational force than an actual display of Christian virtue, it always results in actions on our part. Love inclines us and directs us to be kind, to forgive, to give of ourselves to one another.

Reference: *The Practice of Godliness*, NavPress, 1996, p. 203. Author: Jerry Bridges

THANK  
YOU!

May your character be  
not a writing upon the  
sand, but an inscription  
upon the Rock.

—C.H. Spurgeon



Have a great REST of the SABBATH!