

# The Preeminence of Love in the Bible

Shining  
as Lights  
in



Shining  
as Lights  
in



Deuteronomy 6:5

**You shall love**

**the Lord your God** with all  
your heart and with all your  
soul and with all your  
might.

# The Preeminence of Love in the Bible

Shining  
as Lights  
in



Leviticus 19:18

You shall not take  
vengeance or bear a grudge  
against the sons of your  
own people, **but you shall  
love your neighbor as  
yourself: I am the Lord.**

Shining  
as Lights  
in



1 John 4:7-8

**Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.**

## The Preeminence of Love in the Bible

John 3:16

**“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**

Shining  
as Lights  
in



The Preeminence of Love in the Bible

Rom. 5:8

**...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

Shining  
as Lights  
in



## The Preeminence of Love in the Bible

1 John 3:1

**See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.**

Shining  
as Lights  
in



## The Preeminence of Love in the Bible

Matthew 22:37

And he said to him, “**You shall love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

Shining  
as Lights  
in





# The Preeminence of Love in the Bible

Galatians 5:22

**But the fruit of the Spirit  
is love, joy, peace,  
patience, kindness,  
goodness, faithfulness...**

Shining  
as Lights  
in



## The Preeminence of Love in the Bible

1 John 4:19-21

**We love because he first loved us.** If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: **whoever loves God must also love his brother.**

Shining  
as Lights  
in



## The Preeminence of Love in the Bible

Romans 13:9-10

For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: **“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”** Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Shining  
as Lights  
in



# The Preeminence of Love in the Bible

Romans 12:10

**Love one another with  
brotherly  
affection. Outdo one  
another in showing  
honor.**

Shining  
as Lights  
in



# The Preeminence of Love in the Bible

John 14:15

**“If you love me, you  
will keep my  
commandments.”**

Shining  
as Lights  
in



## The Preeminence of Love in the Bible

Matthew 22:39-40

“And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**” On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

Shining  
as Lights  
in



# The Preeminence of Love in the Bible

Galatians 5:14

...For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: **“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”**

Shining  
as Lights  
in



## The Preeminence of Love in the Bible

Matthew 5:43-44

“You have heard that it was said, **‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’** But I say to you, **Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,** so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven....

Shining  
as Lights  
in





# The Preeminence of Love in the Bible

John 15:13

**Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.**

Shining  
as Lights  
in



## The Preeminence of Love in the Bible

### Philippians 2:2-4

...complete my joy by being of the same mind, **having the same love**, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

Shining  
as Lights  
in



## The Preeminence of Love in the Bible

### Colossians 3:12-15

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **And above all these put on love**, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Shining  
as Lights  
in



## The Preeminence of Love in the Bible

John 13:34-35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, **if you have love for one another.**”

Shining  
as Lights  
in



## The Preeminence of Love in the Bible

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:1

But earnestly desire the  
higher gifts.

And I will show you a still  
more excellent way.

If I speak in the tongues of  
men and of angels, **but have  
not love**, I am a nosy gong or  
clanging cymbal ...

Shining  
as Lights  
in



## The Preeminence of Love in the Bible

1 Corinthians 13:13

So now faith, hope, and  
love abide, these three;  
**but the greatest of these  
is love.**

Shining  
as Lights  
in



# Love is the “More Excellent Way” (1 Cor. 13)

Shining  
as Lights  
in



Shining  
as Lights  
in



Love is the “More Excellent Way” (1 Cor. 13)

- **More excellent than  
supposed spirituality**



Shining  
as Lights  
in



Love is the “More Excellent Way” (1 Cor. 13)

- **More excellent than supposed spirituality**
- **More excellent than prophesy, knowledge and faith**

Shining  
as Lights  
in



Love is the “More Excellent Way” (1 Cor. 13)

- **More excellent than supposed spirituality**
- **More excellent than prophesy, knowledge and faith**
- **More excellent than acts of generosity and self-sacrifice**

# Why is Love So Excellent?

Shining  
as Lights  
in



We are most like beasts when we kill.  
We are most like men when we judge.  
We are most like God when we forgive.

William Arthur Ward

Shining  
as Lights  
in



Why is Love So Excellent?

- **We are the most like God when we love**

Anyone who does not love  
does not know God,  
because *God is love.*

1 John 4:8,16

Shining  
as Lights  
in



Why is Love So Excellent?

- **We are the most like God when we love**
- Life is about becoming like Him again

Shining  
as Lights  
in



Why is Love So Excellent?

- **We are the most like God when we love**
  - Life is about becoming like Him again

Romans 8:29

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Shining  
as Lights  
in



Why is Love So Excellent?

- **We are the most like God when we love**
  - Life is about becoming like Him again

1 John 3:2

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears ***we shall be like him***, because we shall see him as he is.



Shining  
as Lights  
in



Why is Love So Excellent?

- **We are the most like God when we love**
- **When we *feel* loved, that is the closest to what Heaven will be like with God forever**

Shining  
as Lights  
in



Why is Love So Excellent?

- **We are the most like God when we love**
- **When we *feel* loved, that is the closest to what Heaven will be like with God forever**
- **Love is everlasting!**

# The Behavior of Love

Shining  
as Lights  
in



The Behavior of Love

# 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Shining  
as Lights  
in



# How to Shine in Love

Shining  
as Lights  
in



How to Shine in Love

# 1. Submit to God

Shining  
as Lights  
in



# 1. Submit to God

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

(Galatians 5:22-23)

Shining  
as Lights  
in



Shining  
as Lights  
in



How to Shine in Love

- 1. Submit to God**
- 2. Value people as the creation of God**



## How to Shine in Love

Shining  
as Lights  
in



- 1. Submit to God**
- 2. Value people as the creation of God**

Let us make man in our  
image, after our likeness.  
(Genesis 1:26)

Shining  
as Lights  
in



## How to Shine in Love

- 1. Submit to God**
  - 2. Value people as the creation of God**
  - 3. Be grateful for what they can do**
- (1 Corinthians 12)**

## How to Shine in Love

Shining  
as Lights  
in



- 1. Submit to God**
- 2. Value people as the creation of God**
- 3. Be grateful for what they can do**
- 4. Get to know people (Acts 2)**

## 5. **Open yourself up to others**

Shining  
as Lights  
in



Shining  
as Lights  
in



## 5. Open yourself up to others

Brothers, pray for us.  
1 Thessalonians 5:25

Shining  
as Lights  
in



## 5. Open yourself up to others

Bear one another's burdens,  
and so fulfill the law of  
Christ.

Galatians 6:2

Shining  
as Lights  
in



## 5. Open yourself up to others

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

James 5:16

Shining  
as Lights  
in



How to Shine in Love

- 5. Open yourself up to others**
- 6. Pray for people**



Shining  
as Lights  
in



**5. Open yourself up to others**

**6. Pray for people**

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Philippians 1:3

Shining  
as Lights  
in



How to Shine in Love

5. **Open yourself up to others**
6. **Pray for people**
7. **Serve people**

## How to Shine in Love

Shining  
as Lights  
in



5. **Open yourself up to others**
6. **Pray for people**
7. **Serve people**

As each has received a gift,  
use it to serve one  
another, as good stewards of  
God's varied grace...

1 Thessalonians 5:25