

SELFLESS LOVE

1 Peter 1:22-2:3

God wants believers to selflessly love one another

I. THE GOOD (22a)

- You have brotherly love

A. YOU HAVE CHANGED

1. By obeying the truth
2. By purifying their soul

B. YOU LOVE THE BRETHREN

1. Loving them sincerely
2. Loving them sweetly
 - This is a “You’re nice, I like you” type of love (phileo or brotherly love)
 - a. You love them because they are likeable to you
 - b. You love them because they are like you
 - c. You love them because they like you
 - d. There is nothing wrong with this sweet love, but there is also nothing exceptional about it

II. THE GOAL (22b-25)

- You need selfless love

A. THE ELEMENT: Selfless love is commanded

- Fervently love one another

1. This is “just because” love (as opposed to “you’re nice, I like you” sweet love)
 - a. This is not based on beauty or desirability but due to the noble intention of the Spirit-infused giver
 - b. This is love that is based upon the will > “Just because”
2. This love overlooks social and economic differences
3. This produces a focused interest in contributing to another’s well-being - See I Cor. 13:4-8
4. Herein is a willingness to sacrifice for others because they are precious in God’s sight

B. THE EXTENT: Fervent

- This is not easy and does not come naturally

C. THE EXERCISE: From the heart

- Sourced in the heart not in the head

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D. THE EQUIPMENT

1. Having been born again
2. Having been influenced by the powerful Word
 - a. The written Word (23b-25a)
 - b. The spoken Word (25b)

III. THE GUIDELINES (2:1-3)

- How to gain selfless love

A. DISCARD THE WICKED (1)

1. The Condition
 - Put aside > Rid yourself
2. The Contaminants
 - a. Malice: A desire to inflict pain, harm or injury > Ill-will
 - b. Deceit: Gaining an advantage by unfair means > misleading
 - c. Hypocrisy: Concealing the real motive > Inconsistency
 - d. Envy: Bitterness or jealousy over the favorable circumstances of another
 - e. Slander: Malicious gossip or criticism
3. The Contrast

“Love does not practice cunning or act as a mask for selfish motives; it is honest and open-handed in its dealings. Love does not desire to be better than other people or to destroy other people’s reputations; it rejoices in the success of other people and is glad to give them praise and commendation. [I. Howard Marshall, “I Peter,” p. 63]

B. DESIRE THE WORD (2-3)

1. The Command
 - a. Yearn for the Word - See Job 23:12
 - b. Have a sincere desire to be satisfied with nothing but the Word
2. The Condition: Like a newborn baby
3. The Consequence: Growth
4. The Conclusion
 - You taste Christ’s graciousness (see Psalm 34:8)

CONCLUSION:

If we really want to develop a more selfless love, we must get into God’s Word

By getting into God’s Word, we will be a better church member, spouse, parent, employee, neighbor, and human!

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; ¹⁰ for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more,

- I Thess. 4:9-10

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