

PERFECT LOVE

2 Thes. 3:5

“⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance.”

INTRO:

I. HAVING GOD’S LOVE

1. *This love can be found through Jesus Christ*

- 1) **Jn. 3:16**¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”
 - (1) It is not found in religion
 - (2) It is not gain by wealth
 - (3) It is not achieved by giving yourselves unto others
- 2) It is accepting His Forgiveness
- 3) It is accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior

2. *This love can be embraced through a relationship with Jesus*

- 1) Our love cannot be shared: It’s Him or the world
- 2) We have to find time for a relationship
 - (1) We need to talk with Him
 - (2) We need to learn how to walk with Him
 - (3) We need to keep our eyes on Him

II. LETTING THE LORD JESUS DIRECT US TO GOD’S LOVE

1. *How we should love God*

- 1) Lucas 10:27 ²⁷ He answered: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”
 - (1) Jesus directs us in loving God with Body, Soul and Spirit
 - (2) Jesus directs us to love others as ourselves

2. *Going the extra mile*

- 1) Luke 6:32-34 ³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ lend to ‘sinners,’ expecting to be repaid in full.”
 - (1) Just as God shows mercy, we share His mercy

3. *Keeping His commands*

- 1) John 14:15 ¹⁵ “If you love me, you will obey what I command”
 - (1) We cannot say we love Him and not do His will

4. *Remaining in His love*

- 1) John 15:9 ⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.”
 - (1) Don’t lose that first love

5. *Remaining in God’s love*

- 1) John 15:10 ¹⁰ “If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love.”
 - (1) Loving Jesus and obeying Him will bring the Father’s love

III. CHRIST'S **PERSEVERANCE** – CONTINUED EFFORT TO DO OR ACHIEVE SOMETHING DESPITE DIFFICULTIES, FAILURES OR OPPOSITION

1. Nothing can **separate** us from His love

1) Rom 8:35,38 “³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

2. *His love can keep you from **falling***

1) Jude 1:24 “²⁴ To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy”

3. *His love can **restore** you*

1) Luke 22:31-32 “³¹ And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren.”

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CONCLUSION: