

christian virtue.

LOVING GOD
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As followers of Christ we desire to obey Jesus' commandments to **love God and love people**. But as we know, keeping His commandments is not always easy. We may experience difficulties, dilemmas, or even burnouts. Jesus knew this very well, which was why *He does not expect us to do this on our own*.

Loving others requires us allowing and accepting God's love first. We would not be able to love others unconditionally with our own strength, and Jesus never asked us to. Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit and it is through yielding and submitting to His Spirit, letting Him lead and letting His love be front and center in our lives so that we can *love God and love others well*.

John 14: 15-17, 26 -27

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 13: 34

³⁴ 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. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Galatians 5:22-26

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does loving God and keeping His commandments look to you?
2. Why is loving people out of our own strength - not sustainable?
3. In John 14:16, why did Jesus call the Holy Spirit ‘another Helper’? What does this mean?
4. How can we access the ‘Helper’ that Jesus sent to us, so that we can fully live out our love for God and people?