Text: Mathew 22:36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? <sup>37</sup> 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. <sup>38</sup> This is the first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**Introduction:** Outside of God's Word, we have heard and responded to many people's words, physical gestures, and actions thus **coming to our own conclusions** of how or if they love us. When one experiences anything outside of **their own definition of love**, some will become judgmental, bitter, marginalize others, avoid them, cut them off, or even retaliate! As God's Word reveals His Work of Love our minds change!

**1 Peter 1:22** Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned (sincere) love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.

- 1. Our love response to God's Love
- 2. Faith is an action from Love
- 3. Love changes our thinking
- 4. Love never fails

### 1. Our love response to God's Love - John 3:16 ---

1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

**1** John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

### A. God is love

**1 John 4:9** *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.* 

# B. God's Love made us Kings and Priests to live through Him

Revelation 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,
<sup>6</sup> And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

#### C. The love of God is manifest through us!

**Romans 5:5** And hope maketh not ashamed; **because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.** <sup>6</sup> For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

# • <u>PUT YOUR NAME</u> where <u>LOVE</u> or <u>IT</u> is

1 Corinthians 13:4 (Amp.) <u>LOVE</u> endures long and \_\_\_\_\_\_ is patient and kind; <u>LOVE</u> never is envious nor boils over with jealousy; is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. 5 <u>IT</u> is not conceited--arrogant and inflated with pride; it is not rude (unmannerly), and does not act unbecomingly. <u>LOVE</u> [God's love in us] does not insist on <u>ITS</u> own rights or <u>ITS</u> own way, for <u>IT</u> is not self-seeking; <u>IT</u> is not touchy or fretful or resentful; <u>IT</u> takes no account of the evil done to it-pays no attention to a suffered wrong. 6 <u>IT</u> does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. 7 <u>LOVE</u> bears up under anything and everything that comes, \_\_\_\_\_\_ is ever ready to believe the best of every person, <u>ITS</u> hopes are fadeless under all circumstances and <u>IT</u> endures everything [without weakening]. <u>8a</u> LOVE never fails-never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end.

#### 2. Faith is an action from Love

A. Believers love others through God's love

**1** John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

## B. Faith works by love

**Galatians 5:6** For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but *faith which worketh by love.* 

- 3. Love changes our thinking
  - When God's Love is our standard and that which we measure our thoughts and actions by, our minds change and we get cleansed from former perspectives and beliefs.

### A. Obedience for the benefit and love of others

**1 Peter 1:22** Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned (sincere) love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.

B. When love does not rule us, the accuser gets a foothold and discouragement can be seen everywhere.

Hebrews 12:12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; <sup>13</sup> And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. <sup>14</sup> Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: <sup>15</sup> Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

# B. If our heart is heavy, condemning us, God is greater!

- **1** John 3:18 *My* little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.<sup>19</sup> And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.<sup>20</sup> For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.<sup>21</sup> Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.<sup>22</sup> And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.<sup>23</sup> And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.<sup>24</sup> And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.
- 1 John 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. <sup>11</sup> For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. <sup>12</sup> Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. <sup>13</sup> Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. <sup>14</sup> We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. <sup>15</sup> Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. <sup>16</sup>Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life [soul] for us: and we ought to lay down our lives [soul] for the brethren.

# Worship God with your first-fruits, tithes, offerings, and special sacrifices:

**Hebrews 11:4** *By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous,* **God testifying of his gifts:** and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

**Genesis 4:3** And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. <sup>4</sup> And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: <sup>5</sup> But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. <sup>6</sup> And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? <sup>7</sup> If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.