

I AM HOPE

_____ How To _____ All _____, Pt. 2
1 Thess. 3:12; Selected Scriptures
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1 Corinthians 14:1a (NLT) - Let love be your highest goal!

1 Corinthians 16:14 (ESV) - Let all that you do be done in love.

1. You need to realize loving _____ people reveals the true _____ of _____ is really in _____.

Matthew 5:43-48 (ESV) - "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Love -

Pray – προσεύχομαι; Transliteration: proseuchomai.

Luke 23:34 (ESV) - And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

Acts 7:59-60 (ESV) - And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ And falling to his

knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

2 Timothy 4:16-17 (ESV) - At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

1 Peter 3:8-9 (ESV) - Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

***LOVING YOUR ENEMY WILL MAKE YOUR LOVING OTHERS _____.**

Perfect – teleios;

Romans 13:8-10 (ESV) - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ 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." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Galatians 6:10 (ESV) - So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

2. You must _____ to doing all you can to _____ and _____ your _____ for all people.

1 Thessalonians 3:12 (NLT) - And may the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows.

A. Grow in the _____ of _____ you give love to.

Lamentations 3:19-23 (NLT) - The thought of my suffering and homelessness is bitter beyond words. ²⁰ I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. ²¹ Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: ²² The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. ²³ Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.

B. Grow in the _____ of _____ you give to people.

Grow – πλεονάζω; **Transliteration:** pleonazō.

2 Peter 1:7-8 (ESV) - and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:3 (ESV) - We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

Overflow – περισσεύω; **Transliteration:** perisseuō.

1 John 3:16-19 (NLT) - We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. ¹⁹ Our actions will show that we

belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God.

John 13:34-35 (NLT) - So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

Romans 12:9 (NLT) - Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.

Hebrews 13:1 (NLT) - Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters.

1 John 4:7 (NLT) - Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.

1 Timothy 4:12 (ESV) - Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

1 Timothy 4:15 (ESV) - Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (NLT) - Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. ¹⁴ And do everything with love.

Philippians 1:9 (NLT) - I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.

Questions to Consider

1. What character in books, television or films would you describe as very loving?
2. Who are the three people in your life who make/made you feel the most loved? Explain
3. How does loving all people reveal the true love of God is really in you?
4. What is the relationship between loving someone and praying for that person?
5. Would you find it easy or difficult to pray for your enemies while they are doing harm to you? Explain
6. How do you think Jesus, Stephen and Paul were able to pray for their enemies?
7. Why is it important to grow in your love for people?
8. What's one tangible thing you can do to grow in your love for other Christians?
9. What's one tangible thing you can do to grow in your love for your enemies?
10. How can understanding the depth of God's love for you help you grow in your ability to love others?

Bonus Question:

What can you do this week to make God's love through you *reach out, overflow* and *multiply* toward everyone?