**1 Peter: Love One Another from the Heart**

1 Peter 1:22

**Context**

**1 Peter 1:22-25**—Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, **23**for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. **24**For, “All flesh is like grass, And all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, And the flower falls off,**25**But the word of the Lord endures forever.” And this is the word which was preached to you.

As difficult as it may be to comprehend, I think believers often take for granted (or perhaps think less than we should) of the redemptive work of Christ for us. How often do we think of the full weight He carried of our sins and the work He accomplished to rescue us from the otherwise fate of eternal punishment in hell and separated from God.

**Isaiah 53:5**—But He was pierced through for our transgressions,  
He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

**2 Corinthians 5:21**—He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**Galatians 1:3-4**—Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, **4**who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father

**Hebrews 10:9-10**—then He said, “Behold, I have come to do Your will.” He takes away the first in order to establish the second. **10**By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**1 Peter 2:24**— and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

Additionally, how often do we think that our ability to now love one another because of His love for us? Peter calls it a “sincere love, a fervent love from the heart.”

**1 John 4:19**—We love, because He first loved us.

**Because of Your Salvation, Love Others Sincerely**

1. **Because you’ve purified your souls**

**1 Peter 1:22a**—Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls…

1. Genuine love is a defining characteristic of believers

**John 13:35**—By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

**John 14:21**—He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.

1. In contrast, unbelievers cannot love in this way

**John 5:42**—but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves.

**1 John 2:9, 11**—The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. **…11**But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

**3:10**—By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

**4:20**—If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

**Romans 8:7-8**—because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, **8**and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

**2 Corinthians 5:14**—For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died

1. The capacity to love this way comes at salvation

**Romans 5:5**—and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

* 1. At salvation (obedience to the truth), they purified their souls
  2. This purification is a past action with continuing results[[1]](#footnote-1)
  3. Christ’s work purifies us from our past sins

**4:1-3**—Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, **2**so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. **3**For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.

**Hebrews 9:22-23**—And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. **23**Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

* 1. And gives us new capabilities for the present as well as the future

**2 Corinthians 5:17**—Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

**Romans 6:3-14**—Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? **4**Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. **5**For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, **6**knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; **7**for he who has died is freed from sin. **8**Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, **9**knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. **10**For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. **11**Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. **12**Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, **13**and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. **14**For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

**Colossians 3:8-10**—But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. **9**Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, **10**and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him

* 1. He has put a new spirit within us

**Ezekiel 36:25-27**—Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. **26**Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **27**I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**—“Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, **32**not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. **33**“But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. **34**They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the Lord, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

**Matthew 26:28**—for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

**John 3:5**—Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

1. The purifying work is not by human effort, but is a fully divine work

**1 Corinthians 1:26, 30-31**—For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; … 30But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, 31so that, just as it is written, “Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

**Romans 11:6**—But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

**Ephesians 5:25-26**—Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word

**2 Thessalonians 2:13**—But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

1. Obedience to the truth is an inherent element of genuine saving faith

**2**according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

**14**As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance

“’To the obedience’ …is specific to denote the obedience which the truth requires and embraces the whole of it, the acceptance of the truth in faith and the submission to it in life. This truth is the whole gospel reality. Yet Peter refers only to that feature of the obedience which is especially required here: “for unhypocritical (unfeigned, sincere, honest) brotherly affection”[[2]](#footnote-2)

**John 3:36**—He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

**Romans 10:10**—for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

**Ephesians 2:8-10**—For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **9**not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

* 1. Peter references this obedience earlier

**2**according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

* 1. Obedience and faith go hand in hand

**Romans 6:16**—Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

* 1. That said, faith is a free gift of God but will result in obedience

**Ephesian 2:8**

**James 1:22-23**—But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. **23**For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror

* 1. And it will result in a love toward others

**1 John 2:10-11**—The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. **11**But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

**3:10**—By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

**4:7-8**—Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%2520jn%25204&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30611a)]born of God and knows God. **8**The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1. **Because there are believers to love**

**1 Peter 1:22b**—… for a sincere love of the brethren

1. At salvation, the Holy Spirit unites believers into the fellowship
2. We become members of Christ’s church
   1. He then affords us the ability to have a sincere love
   2. Without such spirit-empowerment, we would have no ability to act on this command

**Romans 5:5**—and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

**1 Thessalonians 4:9**—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

**Philippians 1:9**—And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment

1. Sincere—not hypocritical

**Romans 12:10**—Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor

**2 Corinthians 6:3-6**—giving no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited, **4**but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, **5**in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, **6**in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love

* 1. This type of love supersedes earthly affections
  2. It also becomes a magnet to attract unbelievers

**John 13:34-35**—A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35**By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

**1 Corinthians 10:31-32**—Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. **32**Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God

1. Love of the Brethren (phileo)—love of brothers or sisters; fraternal affection:—brotherly love (kindness), love of the brethren.[[3]](#footnote-3)
2. **Because we’re commanded to love**

**1 Peter 1:22c**—... fervently love one another from the heart …

1. Love (agapao)—exercised by the will rather than emotion, not determined by the beauty or desirability of the object, but by the noble intention of the one who loves.[[4]](#footnote-4)

The word love appears twice in this passage. In the original Greek, two different words are used. The apostle speaks first of phileo love, a warm feeling of affection, and second of agapao love, a completely selfless concern for the welfare of others. He assumes that these first-century believers already possess a mutual fondness for one another [phileo love], and challenges them to the pure, fervent agapao love that willingly sacrifices one’s own interests.[[5]](#footnote-5)

1. Fervently (ektenos)—physiological term meaning to stretch to the furthest limit of a muscle’s capacity. From a verb which means to "stretch out the hand," thus it means to be stretched out—earnest, resolute, tense. [[6]](#footnote-6)
   1. It is referencing the need to “go all out”
   2. No holding back

**Luke 22:44**—And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.

**Acts 12:5**—So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.

**4:8**—Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

* 1. When thinking of the extent of what we have received, how could we withhold or be “stingy” with our love?
  2. The motive is not from legalism or duty, but out of genuine care and concern

1. From the heart—it is an ongoing attitude or mindset

**Proverbs 4:23**—Watch over your heart with all diligence,  
For from it flow the springs of life.

**Matthew 22:37-39**—And He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ **38**This is the great and foremost commandment. **39**The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

**Ephesians 4:32**—Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

1. When we walk by the Spirit, we see the fruit of the Spirit

**Gal 5:16, 22-25**—But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. **…** **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**Now 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 walk by the Spirit. **26**Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

**Ephesians 5:15-21**—Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, **16**making the most of your time, because the days are evil. **17**So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **18**And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, **19**speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; **20**always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; **21**and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

1. **Because of our new nature**

**1 Peter 1:23-25**—…for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. **24**For, “All flesh is like grass, And all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, And the flower falls off,**25**But the word of the Lord endures forever.” And this is the word which was preached to you.

**Conclusion**

Although we have every reason to love with such extraordinary love, the truth is we often lack either the motivation or the will. Our unredeemed flesh (**Rom 7:14-25**) often causes us to act in far more selfish and self-preservation ways than the command requires. We often do not regard other people as more important than ourselves (**Phil 2:3**), but place our own interests as highest priority.

The biblical text here not only reminds us of the duty, but the privilege of honoring and glorifying the Savior by loving unconditionally and following Jesus’ clear example. May God grant us His kindness that leads to repentance and actively pursue faithful obedience to Him as our Lord.

**Romans 2:4**—Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

**Homework:** Memorize **1 Peter 1:1-22**

**Source**

Most of the message and notes come from:

* Richard W. De Haan, Good News for Bad Times, 1 Peter.
* R.C.H. Lenski, The Interpretation of I and II Epistles of Peter, the three Epistles of John, and the Epistle of Jude
* John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, 1 Peter

# John MacArthur, Supernatural Love, Part 1, November 6, 1988, 1 Peter 1:22 [www.gty.org](http://www.gty.org)

* Jerome H Smith, The New Treasure of Scripture Knowledge
* [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)
* Strong’s Concordance

1. MacArthur, 89. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Lenski, 71. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Strong’s G5360 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. MacArthur, 90. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. DeHaan, 39. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Strong’s G1619; blueletterbible.org [↑](#footnote-ref-6)