

such calls for love, then love cannot be consistently limited only to some persons or to _____ person (as in loving only himself).

If one discovers in himself that a person demands love, than that love demands that he apply it to other _____ as well.

THE TWO MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF BIBLICAL LOVE

We must avoid confusing biblical love with modern uses of the word. Also, love is primarily an action, not an emotion.

1. Love is desiring (and doing) what is good for the other person. It will many times require more than a smile and a kind word. It will usually involve self-sacrifice. It could also involve confrontation and discipline (love is done what the other person needs, not necessarily what they want).

2. Love gives with no demand for return. The motivation is nothing less than the welfare of the other person. Unconditional forgiveness is a perfect example.

Both characteristics can be seen in God's love for us.

Ephesians 1:3-14

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will--to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.