

*"A New Commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have Loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye Have Love one to another." John 13:34-35 KJV*



Love is not an emotion so much as it is an action. Affection is the emotion that spurs us to act in a loving manner. Fondness, affection, sympathy, pity, and compassion are a few of the emotions that initiate charitable acts. The Word of God defines Love as charity. Charity is not the gift, but the act that is produced out of compassion and mercy. We ought to “*have love*” one for another. That doesn’t mean going around hugging and kissing, it means supplying needs of others as we have it to give. Our brother needs a wheelchair because he lost a leg, so we get together and purchase one. We do it because we care about his physical well-being as a brother in Christ. An extreme example, but you get the point. There are also many things that cost only a little extra effort to convey mercy and compassion to our siblings in the Lord. A smile, a kind word, a note of encouragement, a card, a glass of water, a plate of cookies, mowing a yard, helping the elderly in and around their homes, housekeeping in meeting places, are just a few of the things that cost little or nothing, but convey a mountain of meaning. I had been separated from my parents for most of my life, but I made it a practice to help those around me. I know that God honored those actions, because He provided the care for my parents when they needed it and I could not give it. God works through believers to minister to the Body of Christ, The Church. We reap what we sow in all things. A person may say they’re just fine, but we all know if a person’s face tells the same story. You don’t have to force an admission, but you can be helpful and watchful if you believe another to be weary or sad with a mid-week phone call, a card of encouragement, or just a plate of cookies hand delivered. (Best to find out first if they can have them.) If we help one another, and “*have love one to another,*” everybody’s burden gets a little lighter. The help may be small, but the knowledge that you are loved removes mountains of weariness. Use God’s Word to lift the burden of doubt from someone’s shoulders. You may care, but pen and ink, a smile or a kind word will do more good than caring thoughts. Look for things in which others in the Assembly need help and try to ease their load a bit the best you can. Jesus said, “*Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*” Those who seem most unworthy of your help are usually the ones that need it most. You may never know how much your love will mean to another, but Jesus will!

To show to others that we care,  
We shoulder burdens that they bear,  
By helping others through their day,  
We demonstrate our charity. ~CGP

If I know you are thirsty and I care, compassion will move me to get you a glass of water, demonstrating my affection and showing your needs are important. When we minister to one another’s needs, it is the same as if we had done it to the Lord Jesus, Himself. Jesus said, “*Lovest thou Me? Feed My sheep.*”

*"Then shall the King say unto them on His Right Hand, 'Come, ye Blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.' Then shall the righteous answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? Or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?' And the King shall answer and say unto them, 'Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.'" Matthew 25:34-40 KJV*