

# Weapons Of Warfare

## The Series Part 4

*Love - God Is Love - Obey God, To Love God & Man*

**Opening verse: 1 Corinthians 13:13** “But now faith, hope, and love remain—these three. The **greatest of these is Love.**”

When we think of God, it's kind of hard to fathom having the power to do whatever you want, however you want. With unlimited power, and no one being able to resist your every whim. So, it can be equally as difficult to understand that God purposely and willingly limited Himself to a set of guidelines. He chose self-control and directives that expressed certain characteristic of Himself that He wanted His creation to focus on. In this, God chose LOVE to be the chief expression of who He is. Then, He went about defining the definition of Love. He did this by again setting up limitations and guidelines- “rules” if you will, on how Love presents itself. What Love does and what Love never does. Then He enacted the creation plan to express this Love to His Children. With this understanding, we will start to dive into the topic of God, Love, and why obedience is so important to truly love!

### God Is Love

1 John 4:7-8 “Beloved, let's love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves has been born of God, and knows God. (8) He who doesn't love doesn't know God, for God is love.”

1 John 4:16 “We know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and he who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him.”

### God Expressed His Love Through Action!

Romans 5:5-10 “and hope doesn't disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (6) For while we were yet weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. (7) For one will hardly die for a righteous man. Yet perhaps for a righteous person someone would even dare to die. (8) But God commends his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (9) Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we will be saved from God's wrath through him. (10) For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we will be saved by his life.”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

1 John 4:9 “By this God's love was revealed in us, that God has sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.”

Jeremiah 31:3 "Yahweh appeared of old to me, saying, "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love. Therefore I have drawn you with loving kindness."

### **Because He Did, We Can!**

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

### **How Are We Suppose To Love Him?**

Romans 2:4 "Or do you despise the riches of his goodness, forbearance, and patience, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?"

Matthew 22:37-38 "Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' (38) This is the first and great commandment."

## *How Do We Do This?*

**GOD SPELLS LOVE = O-B-E-Y**

John 15:14-15 "You are my friends, **if you do whatever I command you**. (15) No longer do I call you servants, for the servant doesn't know what his lord does. But I have called you friends, for everything that I heard from my Father, I have made known to you."

John 14:21 "**One who has my commandments, and keeps them**, that person is one who loves me. One who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him, and will reveal myself to him."

### **This Was No Different For Jesus. [Action Based Love]**

John 15:8-10 "In this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; and so you will be my disciples. (9) Even as the Father has loved me, I also have loved you. Remain in my love. (10) If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love; **even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and remain in his love.**"

John 10:14-18 "I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and I'm known by my own; (15) even as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep. (16) I have other sheep, which are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will hear my voice. They will become one flock with one shepherd. (17) **Therefore the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again.** (18) No one takes it away from me, but I lay it down by myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. I received this commandment from my Father."

### **Keep The Commandments.**

1 John 2:3-6 "**Now by this we know that we have come to know God: if we keep his commandments.** (4) The one who says "I have come to know God" and yet does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in such a person. (5) But whoever obeys his word, **truly in this person the love of God has been perfected.** By this we know that we are in him. (6) The one who says he resides in God ought himself to walk just as Jesus walked."

1 John 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

*Ecclesiastes 12:13-14* "This is the end of the matter. All has been heard. **Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man.** (14) For God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it is good, or whether it is evil."

**Now We Can understand This Verse.**

*1 Corinthians 8:3* "But if anyone loves God, the same is known by him."

## *The Revelation: The God Of Love In The Law*

Many might not know that **The 10 Commandment Law of God is a perfect representation of God's character. This is the reason the Commandment Law is so important to Christians. If you want to know God, we are given two great examples: the first being Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the second being His perfect Law.**

### **1) LOVE- God is: Love**

*1 John 4:8* "The person who doesn't love doesn't know God, because God is love."

**The Law is: Love**

*Romans 13:9-10* "For: "Do not commit adultery; do not murder; do not steal; do not bear false witness; do not lust;" and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love works no ill to its neighbor, therefore love is the fulfilling of the Law."

### **2) GOOD- God is: Good**

*Luke 18:19* "And Jesus said to him, Why do you call Me good? None is good except One, God."

**The Law is: Good**

*1 Timothy 1:8* "We know that the Law is good, if it is used in the right way."

### **3) HOLY- God is: Holy**

*Isaiah 5:16* "The LORD of Armies will be honored when he judges. The holy God will show himself to be holy when he does what is right."

**The Law is: Holy**

*Romans 7:12* "Still, the Law and its commands are holy and correct and good."

### **4) Perfect- God is: Perfect**

*Matthew 5:48* "Therefore be perfect, even as your Father in Heaven is perfect."

**The Law is: Perfect**

*Psalms 19:7* "The Law of the LORD is perfect; it gives us new life. His teachings last forever, and they give wisdom to ordinary people."

### **5) PURE- God is: Pure**

*1 John 3:2-3* "Beloved, now we are the children of God, and it was not yet revealed what we shall be. But we know that if He is revealed, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. And everyone having this hope on Him purifies himself even as that One is pure."

### **The Law is: Pure**

*Psalms 19:8* "Yahweh's precepts are right, rejoicing the heart. Yahweh's commandment is pure, enlightening the eyes."

### **6) JUST- God is: Just**

*Deuteronomy 32:4* "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are just. A God of faithfulness who does no wrong, just and right is he."

### **The Law is: Just**

*Romans 7:12* "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good."

### **7) TRUE- God is: True**

*John 3:33* "He who has received his witness has set his seal to this, that God is true."

### **The Law is: True**

*Psalms 19:7-10* "Yahweh's law is perfect, restoring the soul. Yahweh's testimony is sure, making wise the simple. Yahweh's precepts are right, rejoicing the heart. Yahweh's commandment is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of Yahweh is clean, enduring forever. Yahweh's ordinances are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the extract of the honeycomb."

### **8) SPIRITUAL- God is: Spiritual**

*John 4:24* "God is a spirit, and they who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth."

### **The Law is: Spiritual**

*Romans 7:14* "For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin."

### **9) RIGHTEOUSNESS- God is: Righteousness**

*Lamentations 1:18* "Yahweh is righteous; for I have rebelled against his commandment. Please hear all you peoples, and see my sorrow. My virgins and my young men have gone into captivity."

### **The Law is: Righteousness**

*Psalms 119:172* "My tongue shall speak Your Word, for all Your Commandments are righteousness."

### **10) FAITHFUL- God is: Faithful**

*1 Corinthians 1:9* "God is faithful, by whom you were called to the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

### **The Law is: Faithful**

*Psalms 119:86* "All Your Commandments are faithful;"

### **11) UNCHANGEABLE- God is: Unchangeable**

*Malachi 3:6* "For I, Yahweh, don't change; therefore you, sons of Jacob, are not consumed."

### **The Law is: Unchangeable**

*Matthew 5:17-19* "Don't think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I didn't come to destroy, but to fulfill. For most certainly, I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not even one smallest letter or one tiny pen stroke shall in any way pass away from the law,

until all things are accomplished. Whoever, therefore, shall break one of these least commandments, and teach others to do so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven; but whoever shall do and teach them shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.”

## **12) ETERNAL- God is: Eternal**

*Deuteronomy 33:27* “The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. And He shall throw the enemy out from before you, and shall say, Destroy!”

### **The Law is: Eternal**

*Psalms 111:7-8* “The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure. They stand fast forever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.”

*“Oh how I love Your Law! It is my meditation all the day.” (Psalms 119:97)*

## **What Are The Benefits?**

**Now that we know that Jesus and the 10 Commandment Law are the perfect representations of God’s Character and Love, we can understand the following verses with greater clarity:**

*Matthew 5:17-19* **Jesus said;** “Don’t think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I didn’t come to destroy, but to fulfill. For most certainly, I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not even one smallest letter or one tiny pen stroke shall in any way pass away from the law, until all things are accomplished. Whoever, therefore, shall break one of these least commandments, and teach others to do so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven; but whoever shall do and teach them shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.”

- If we want to be like God and be like Jesus, we must abide by the Ten Commandment Law of God. They represent who They are.

### **It Also Unlocks The Meaning Of The Following Verses Even More:**

*1 John 2:3* “This is how we know that we know him: if we keep his commandments.”

- Again as we seen earlier we can understand even more fully. We know him meaning who he is what makes him tic, how he goes about things and why. We can then approach a meaningful relationship with Him with this understanding.

*Ephesians 3:14-19* “For this cause, **I bow my knees** to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, (15) from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, (16) that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, that you may be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inward man; (17) **that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; to the end that you, being rooted and grounded in love, (18) may be strengthened to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and height and depth, (19) and to know Christ’s love which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.**”

*1 John 2:4* “One who says, “I know him,” and doesn’t keep his commandments, is a liar, and the truth isn’t in him.”

**Again, What Is The Benefit Of Obeying God And Keeping His Commandments?**

*Revelation 22:14* “Blessed are those who do his commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter in by the gates into the city.”

## **You Can't Love God Without Loving Each Other!**

*Matthew 22:37-39* “Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ (38) This is the first and great commandment. (39) A second likewise is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

*Galatians 5:14-15* “For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (15) But if you bite and devour one another, be careful that you don't consume one another.”

*1 John 5:2* “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.”

*1 John 4:10-12* “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. (11) Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also ought to love one another. (12) No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has been perfected in us.”

*1 John 4:20-21* “If a man says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who doesn't love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? (21) This commandment we have from him, that he who loves God should also love his brother.”

*John 13:34-35* “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also love one another. (35) By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

### **How Did Jesus Love?**

*1 John 3:15-18* “Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. (16) By this we know love, **because he laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.** (17) But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and closes his heart of compassion against him, how does God's love remain in him? (18) My little children, let's not love in word only, or with the tongue only, but in deed and truth.”

### **How Are We Then Supposed To Do It For Our Brothers And Sisters?**

*John 15:12-14* “This is my commandment, that you **love one another, even as I have loved you.** (13) Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do whatever I command you.”

### **How Are We Supposed To Do This For God?**

*Romans 12:1-2* “Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, ***to present your bodies a living sacrifice***, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service. (2) Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God.

## **To Love God And Man, You Must Start With The Death Of Self. The Destruction of Ego, Pride, and Self Preservation!**

### **Examples Of How To Love God And Man:**

**Romans 12:9-21** “Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil. Cling to that which is good. (10) In love of the brothers be tenderly affectionate to one another; in honor preferring one another; (11) not lagging in diligence; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; (12) rejoicing in hope; enduring in troubles; continuing steadfastly in prayer; (13) contributing to the needs of the saints; given to hospitality. (14) Bless those who persecute you; bless, and don’t curse. (15) Rejoice with those who rejoice. Weep with those who weep. (16) Be of the same mind one toward another. Don’t set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Don’t be wise in your own conceits. (17) Repay no one evil for evil. Respect what is honorable in the sight of all men. (18) If it is possible, as much as it is up to you, be at peace with all men. (19) Don’t seek revenge yourselves, beloved, but give place to God’s wrath. For it is written, “Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord.” (20) Therefore “If your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in doing so, you will heap coals of fire on his head.” (21) Don’t be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

**Romans 13:8-10** “Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor 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 whatever other commandments there are, are all summed up in this saying, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (10) Love doesn’t harm a neighbor. Love therefore is the fulfillment of the law.”

**1 Corinthians 13:1-13** “If I speak with the languages of men and of angels, but don’t have love, I have become sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal. (2) If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but don’t have love, I am nothing. (3) If I give away all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, but don’t have love, it profits me nothing. (4) Love is patient and is kind; love doesn’t envy. Love doesn’t brag, is not proud, (5) doesn’t behave itself inappropriately, doesn’t seek its own way, is not provoked, takes no account of evil; (6) doesn’t rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; (7) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (8) Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will be done away with. Where there are various languages, they will cease. Where there is knowledge, it will be done away with. (9) For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; (10) but when that which is complete has come, then that which is partial will be done away with. (11) When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child. Now that I have become a man, I have put away childish things. (12) For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, even as I was also fully known. (13) But now faith, hope, and love remain—these three. The greatest of these is love.”

**Now, Let Us Reread The Same Verses With God In Mind!**

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 "Love is patient and is kind; love doesn't envy. Love doesn't brag, is not proud, (5) doesn't behave itself inappropriately, doesn't seek its own way, is not provoked, takes no account of evil; (6) doesn't rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; (7) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, (23) gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

### **Now We Can Understand The Connection To Love And The Law.**

Matthew 24:10-13 "Then many will be led into sin, and they will betray one another and hate one another. (11) And many false prophets will appear and deceive many, (12) and because lawlessness will increase so much, the love of many will grow cold. (13) But the person who endures to the end will be saved."

### **Nothing Can Separate Us If We Remain In Relationship With Him.**

Romans 8:35-39 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Could oppression, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (36) Even as it is written, "For your sake we are killed all day long. We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter." (37) No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (38) For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, (39) nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from God's love, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Psalms 36:5-10 "Your loving kindness, Yahweh, is in the heavens. Your faithfulness reaches to the skies. (6) Your righteousness is like the mountains of God. Your judgments are like a great deep. Yahweh, you preserve man and animal. (7) How precious is your loving kindness, God! The children of men take refuge under the shadow of your wings. (8) They shall be abundantly satisfied with the abundance of your house. You will make them drink of the river of your pleasures. (9) For with you is the spring of life. In your light shall we see light. (10) Oh continue your loving kindness to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart."

Psalms 52:8-9 "But as for me, I am like a green olive tree in God's house. I trust in God's loving kindness forever and ever. (9) I will give you thanks forever, because you have done it. I will hope in your name, for it is good, in the presence of your saints."

Romans 8:28-30 "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose. (29) For whom he foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (30) Whom he predestined, those he also called. Whom he called, those he also justified. Whom he justified, those he also glorified."

**As we have seen, just like God, we must also limit ourselves to true love. To obey God, makes us like God. This is the same God who chose what LOVE truly is and how it expresses itself. So, remain within the guidelines and you can truly Love God and Man!**