



With hope that this page will bring glory to God and attention to His Word, you are invited to check this page every day for a piece of scripture, thoughts on the verse(s) and a prayer. May the ideas presented here bring you fulfillment as you continue your journey with Christ.

**Thursday May 2, 2024**

**Today's Scripture:**

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.  
John 15:9-10

**Thoughts on Today’s Verse(s):**

How do we let people know that we love them? Do we just tell them or do we *show* them? Do we just verbalize our love or do we actually display it? Most people would agree that if we simply tell someone that we love them, it may not be enough.

We tell Jesus that we love Him, don't we? In prayer and in worship we communicate our love to The Savior in any multitude of sayings and singings. We share our complete agape for Him whenever we feel moved to do so, likely every day. But how do we really *show* Him that we love Him?

Many people would begin to answer such a query with the word service. We show Jesus that we love Him by serving Him and His children. We like to think that we exhibit our love for God by serving the ones He loves. But there is a danger in our service that we must be constantly aware of and thus ask ourselves the question: *Are we serving God or ourselves?* We may think we are serving God by serving others when we are actually just doing the things we like to do and expect others to see it as service and expect God to see it as a display of love for Him.

Today Jesus gives us a very clear path to showing our love for Him and the Father and others.

Today's instructions are not nearly as cryptic as is often the case. The Lord simply tells us to abide in His love by obeying His commandments; the commandments of The Father: *Love God and love everyone else.*

The Ten Commandments of God are actually presented in a wonderful order. The first 4 are about loving God and the last 6 are about loving our neighbors. If we follow those commands, or at least giving every effort to, we are actually showing our love for God and we are abiding/remaining in His love. Yet, somehow The Ten Commandments have become passé in a 21<sup>st</sup> century world, even in the church. We tend to treat them like "general recommendations" or "common suggestions" rather than absolute truth. Just like we treat the rules of the road as recommendations, we may come to believe in the commandments of God. But, God doesn't see it that way. His commandments are absolute and without leeway.

Rather than perceiving The Lord's unwavering commands as oppressive and intolerant, we must see them as *loving* and good. God gave us His Laws as the best way to live that we may abide in His love. By following them, we give back our love to Him.

## Prayer:

***Loving God, Your commands are perfect and loving. You gave us The Law that we may abide and remain in Your love but too often we allow the dark pulls of this world to lead us astray and we may even perceive Your Law to be unfair. Lord, help us to understand and appreciate Your commandments not as only as the best way to live but also as an expression of our love for You. Through following Your commands, we can show our love for You and You can receive it. What a glorious and perfect model this truly is! May we display our love for You today by loving Your Son Jesus as He commanded us. We pray in His name, Amen.***

## John 15:9-10

<sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.