



## Daily Verse and Comment

### 1 John 5:1-3

(1) Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. (2) By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. (3) For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

*New King James Version*

[God](#) intends the love of Him and the love of man to be inseparable parts of the same experience. John explains this by saying that if we love the Father, we also love the child. If we love the Father who begot the children, we must love the children, otherwise we do not have [God's love](#). In [1 John 4:20](#), he amplifies this: "If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?"

[1 John 5:3](#) is the Bible's basic definition of love. The commandments define, make clear, what the basic elements of love are and what direction our actions should take if we would show love. This means that obedience to God is the proof of love. Obedience is an action that submits to a command of God, a principle revealed in His Word and/or an example of God or the godly.

In a sense, this is where godly love begins in a human being. Obeying God's commands is love because God is love. Because His very nature is love, it is impossible for Him to [sin](#). Thus He gives us commands in love, and they will produce right and good results. Any command of God reflects what He Himself would do were He in the same situation.

[Jesus](#) says in [John 14:15](#), "If you love Me, keep My commandments." Keeping the commandments is how one expresses love. He adds in [John 15:10](#), "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."

A person may have a thought to do good or to refrain from evil. He may have a feeling of compassion, pity, or mercy. One may feel revulsion about doing an evil action. But none of these become love until the thought or feeling motivates one to act. In the biblical sense, love is an action.

Love has yet another aspect, however. We can show love coldly, reluctantly, in "dutiful obedience." We can also show it in joyous, wholehearted enthusiasm or warmhearted, thankful devotion. Which is more attractive to God or man as a witness?

Regardless of the attitude, it is far better to obey than not at all ([Matthew 21:28-31](#)). If we cannot get beyond *doing* what is right, the proper feelings will never be formed. Experience is largely responsible for training attitude and emotion ([Psalm 111:10](#)). We will never form proper emotions without first performing the right actions with the right spirit, God's Holy Spirit.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

**To learn more, see:**

**[The Fruit of the Spirit: Love](#)**

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