

Bible Study 03-04-2026

**Title:** "Agents of God's Love"

**Scripture:** Hebrews 13:1-3

Our understanding of love should begin and end with God Himself, our loving Father. We are able to love because according to **1 John 4:19**, "God first loved us." Love is not a human innovation. Being an agent of God's love is to be active, appreciate and humbly respond to His divine offer of love to help enrich and shape the world around us. Love is a *gift* of God, part of our created nature. Although many people have distorted the concept of love, the only way to recover the concept of God-based love, we must study His Word and live out its teachings daily.

Central to the Christian understanding of God is that He **is** a loving God. This becomes real for us who have a personal relationship with Him. God's love for us flows from the deepest part of His nature in a manner we can observe and enjoy but not fully explain.

The perfect expression of God's love is the sending of His Son to be our Savior (**John 3:16**). He came to save us while we were in a state of rebellion as His hostile enemies. There is nothing more central to the Christian faith than understanding the cross as an act of unselfish, gracious love for all men and women. God is concerned about the motive and posturing of our heart. His expression of love for us is the creation of a community of loving people imitating our loving Savior. The church is to be characterized by genuine, active concern for fellow members and for the community in which they live.

### **13:1 Let brotherly love continue.**

A perpetual love. A love that never surrenders regardless of the problem or opposition. Every believer in Christ has what is needed to reach the lost. If believers do not have enough or refuse to put forth a sincere effort, the loss will be lost forever.

NIV **Romans 12:10** *"Be devoted (kindly affectioned) to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."*

NIV **1 Corinthians 13:5** *"It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."*

Love is listed first in (**Galatians 5:22-23**) the fruit of the Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit of God who enables us to produce and grow good fruit. Love is the gift that keeps on giving. Jesus

wants us to bear fruit: NIV **John 15:1-2** "I Am the true vine, and My Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

**V5** "I Am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God, prayer, worship and the fellowship of the believers to build us up in Christ. The believer who spends time daily in the Word and prayer, and who yields to the Spirit's working, is going to enjoy liberty and will help build up the church.

**13:2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares,**

Brotherly love is demonstrated by showing hospitality. The early church is known for caring for those who traveled from city to city in the ancient world who had fewer options for accommodations.

NIV **1 Peter 4:9** "*Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.*" Biblical love is not defined by our feelings but by sacrificing for the good of others. This hospitality is an authentic welcoming and serving, especially toward those who do not have the means to repay. Song by Shirley Caesar "You Did It All"

Jesus reminds us in **Matthew 25:40** NIV "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

**Galatians 6:10** "*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*"

**13:3 Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.**

Remember those who are in jail or prison. The Romans did not incarcerate people to serve lengthy prison sentences as punishment. To be in jail was to await trial for corporal punishment, including execution. To provide for the imprisoned may include visiting for prayer or encouragement.

Let us not forget about those within the church who are going through a trying season of life. Love is powerful. Let us never lose momentum in being an active agent of God's love. Love consistently because we know that God's love for us is eternal and will never fail. Love fearlessly, because our love springs from our relationship with God, not from any expectation of having our love returned by another person.