#### Living in Light of the End: Love 1 Peter 4:8-9

Living in light of the end will lead you to frequent prayer, fervent love, and faithful service.

- 1. The priority of love.
  - a. Love is the greatest commandment.
  - b. Love is the great trait of our Father.
  - c. Love explains and animates the cross.
- 2. The fervency of love.
  - a. Fervent love is enduring love.
  - b. Fervent love is focused love.
- 3. The practice of love.
  - a. Love is grace giving.
  - b. Love is hospitable.

# First Peter

### **To God's Chosen Ones**

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# Living in Light of the End

# **Love** 1 Peter 4:8-9

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#### 1 Peter 4:10-11

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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# Fervent Love The Priority of Love

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### Why is love above all?

# Love is the fulfillment of the law.

### Matthew 22:35-40

One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

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## On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.

#### Romans 13:8-10

Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. For this, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of the law.

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## Love is the great trait of our Father.

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Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

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# Love is **the** identifying trait of God's children.

#### 1 Peter 1:22-23

Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God.

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# Love explains and animates the cross.

### 1 Peter 4:8-9 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another,

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### 1 John 3:16

We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

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It is God's love that explains the cross to us. But it is also the cross that explains God's love.
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Our self-sacrificing love for one another reveals and animates the life-giving power of the cross.

#### John 13:35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

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# **Fervent Love**

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The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and be sober for the purpose of prayer.

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### What kind of love is fervent love?

### Fervent love is enduring love.

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### 1 Peter 4:8-9 Above all, <u>keeping</u> a fervent love for one another,

because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint. Christian love holds on to others through their many messes and the many manifestations of their sinful brokenness.

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# Fervency implies focus: Fervent love is focused on the other person.

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# Fervency implies focus:

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### Fervent love is focused on good for the other.

Psalm 119:68 You are good and do good; Teach me Your statutes.

Psalm 25:8 Good and upright is the LORD; Therefore He instructs sinners in the way.

Christians know that the greatest good is God Himself.

# **Fervent Love**

The Priority of Love

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### **The Practice of Love**

### What does love do?

### Love extends grace to other sinners.

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#### Proverbs 10:12 Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all transgressions.

#### **Proverbs 17:9**

He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.

It is hateful to speak against your brother or sister.

Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

### 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous;

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### What does love do?

Love extends grace to other sinners.

### Love gladly opens itself to strangers.

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### Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

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### The Greatest Example of Hospitality?

#### 2 Corinthians 6:14-16

...what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness... what fellowship has light with darkness... what harmony has Christ with Belial... what agreement has the temple of God with idols? ...just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

# **Conclusion:**

Living in light of the end will lead you to frequent prayer, **fervent love**, and faithful service.

### **For Reflection:**

Are you holding on to love for others, or are you holding on to offenses? Do your conversations commend others or criticize them? Is it your interests that move you toward relationships or the interests of Christ? Are you letting differences create distance, or are you seeking commonality in Christ?