



**LABOR OF LOVE ~ Week 1**  
**The Most Excellent Way**

*A new command I give you. Love one another.*

*As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ~ John 13:34*

*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. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also. ~ 1 John 4:7-21*

**~ C.I.E. ~**

**Context Is Everything**

*Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you the most excellent way. ~ 1 Corinthians 12:27-31*

*If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 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 do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. ~ 1 Corinthians 13:1-3*

*It is an evil and adulterous generation that craves a sign ...  
~ Matthew 12:39, Matthew 16:4*

*Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe.  
~ John 4:48*

*For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. ~ Matthew 24:24*

*For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside." ~ 1 Corinthians 1:19*

*Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ~ 1 Corinthians 8:1*

*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.  
~ Galatians 5:6*

*And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.  
~ 1 Corinthians 13:3*

*Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." ~ Matthew 22:37-40*

**LOVE GOD AND LOVE PEOPLE.**



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