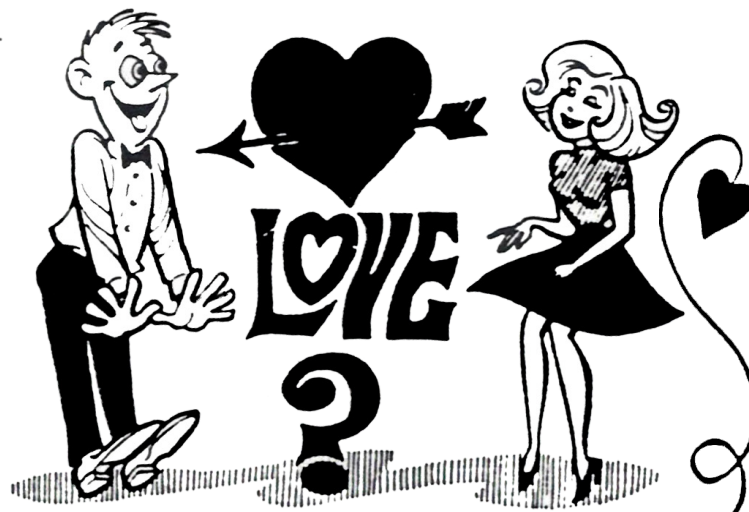


THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF



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In today's culture we tend to think of love in terms of boy meets girl and ... **BOING!**... cupid's arrow find its mark in the human heart. In other words, love is the emotional kick that makes the world go 'round.

Or when modern day politicians and ministers exhort us to "**love thy neighbour**", it is to the end of submitting ourselves to *legalised plunder* through *taxation* that communism and socialism may be subsidised abroad and laziness and immorality may be encouraged domestically.



But are the above things truly love and
how does the Bible define love?

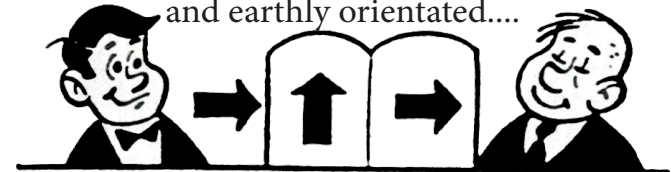
THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF LOVE

is the same in both the Old and New Testaments of the Holy Bible. God, through Moses, made it clear that **loving our neighbour** includes **ALL** men.... friends, foreigners and enemies (Leviticus 19:18,33,34). But He also made it clear just how we are to love them....

"Ye shall keep My Statutes"

Leviticus 19:19

God's Law, the Ten Commandments (exodus 20 & Deuteronomy 5), are both Heavenly and earthly orientated....



The **first** table of the Law is vertical, stating man's **duty to God**. The **second** table is horizontal, regulating **affairs among men**.

Christ, in Matthew 19:17-19, lists the second table of the Law and then He tells us to "**Love thy neighbour as thyself**."

The inspired Apostle Paul exhorts us as follows in Romans 13:9-10:

"Thou shalt not commit adultery, thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not bear false witness, thou shalt not covet and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the Law."

And so, the *Biblical Doctrine of Love* is defined as being fulfilled when we respect our neighbours lawful right to **life, family, property and reputation....** in thought, word and deed!

LOVE IS THE FULFILLING OF THE LAW

GOD WANTS YOU TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR BY RESPECTING HIS GOD-GIVEN RIGHTS TO...

LIFE...

"THOU SHALT NOT KILL"...



WIFE...

"THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY"



PROPERTY...

"THOU SHALT NOT STEAL"

and



REPUTATION

"THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS"



and "THOU SHALT NOT COVET!"
WE ARE NOT EVEN TO THINK ILL TOWARD OUR NEIGHBOR IN ANY OF THESE AREAS.

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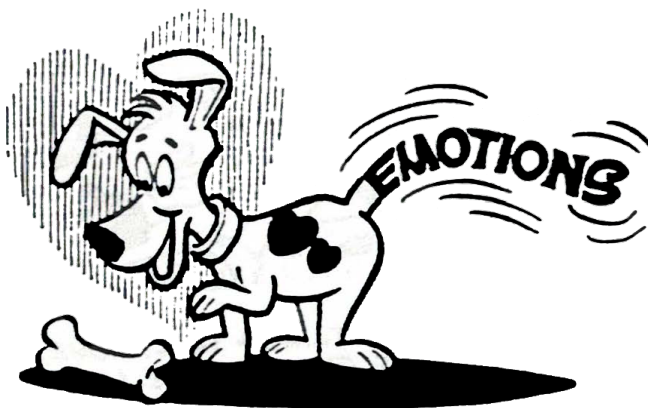
Only when this kind of mutual respect for one another's God-centred rights is practised can there be true love!

All other forms of so-called "love" are counterfeit and will soon let you down.



However it is quite natural for the emotions to be properly exercised when a person keeps his or her relationship with you within the bounds of God's Law. You will tend to feel good about a person that both regards and guards your rights under God's Law.

And so, it might well be said that fulfilling the Law is the motive force that activates the emotions. But it is not the other way around...
The tail never wags the dog!



GOD'S LOVE and HIS LAW

Neither can God's Love for men find expression outside of the framework of His Law. For God does not love indiscriminately. The demands of His Law **MUST** be satisfied.

Sinners outside of Saving Faith in Jesus Christ as their Redeemer are *not* recipients of God's Love but are under God's Wrath for breaking His Commandments.

Those whom God loves He loves *only* through Christ who satisfied the demands of the Law on their behalf. Christ obeyed God's Law perfectly, yet offered Himself as a *sinless sacrifice*, bearing the sins of His people. *"The good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep."*

And so, God, Whom we are to imitate, also loves only by means of His Law!

