

Love Thy Neighbor: Introduction

THE COMMANDMENT: LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF

Love Thy Neighbor As Thyself: [Mathew 22:37-40](#)

37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like unto it, **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**

40 **On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.**

There Is No Greater Commandment: [Mark 12:30-31](#)

30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. **There is none other commandment greater than these.**

The Golden Rule: [3 Nephi 14:12](#)

12 Therefore, **all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them**, for this is the law and the prophets.

Love Thy Neighbor: Rationale—5 Reasons to Love Our Neighbors

THE RATIONALE: WHY?

Prophecies About the Latter Days: [2 Timothy 3:2](#)

- 1 This know also, that **in the last days perilous times shall come.**
- 2 **For men shall be lovers of their own selves**, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
- 3 **Without natural affection**, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
- 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, **lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;**
- 5 **Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:**

Five Reasons to Love Our Neighbors:

- 1) Prepares the earth for the second coming of the Savior
- 2) Is evidence of our discipleship
- 3) Leads others to truth
- 4) Makes everyone's burdens bearable
- 5) We have covenanted to bear one another's burdens

1) Prepare the Earth for the Savior by Building the Kingdom: [4 Nephi 1:15](#)

15 And it came to pass that **there was no contention in the land, because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people.**

- Part of our mission as members of the church living in the latter-days is to help prepare the earth for the second coming of the Savior
- Each of us has been given unique personalities and spiritual gifts
- The earth becomes more Celestial, more fit for the Savior's presence, as we use our particular personalities and specific spiritual gifts to pour light and life into the world in the unique ways that only we can

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2) Evidence of Discipleship: [John 13:34-35](#)

34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye **love one another; as I have loved you**, that ye also love one another.

35 **By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

- Do people feel the Savior’s love when they are in your presence?
 - Jeanne Stricklin - Patiently and genuinely love people who seem undeserving, unreasonable, or unloveable
- Do people feel more positive about themselves, their abilities, and their future as a result of the time they spend with you?
 - Becky Garcia – Continuously points out what is positive about those around her, draws attention to their positive qualities, and celebrates their successes
- If someone were to examine your life, could they find enough evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that you are a Christian?
 - Amber & Jacob Mock - Have witnessed them render intensive, ongoing, Christlike service
 - Rollin & Joan Sattler – Provide continuous, willing, uncomplaining service to anyone and everyone they encounter who is in need

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3) Leads Others to Truth: [D&C 123:12](#)

12 For **there are many** yet on the earth **among all sects, parties, and denominations, who are blinded by the subtle craftiness of men**, whereby they lie in wait to deceive, and **who are only kept from the truth because they know not where to find it—**

- Live so that others come to know the Savior because they know you
- It is difficult for others to follow us to Christ when they can't see him in the way we live our lives
- Are my actions strengthening others? Self → Family → Ward Family → World

a) **When we love others, we make the adversary's job more difficult:** [John 21:16](#)

16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

- We are more vulnerable when we alone.
- When Satan can cause us to withdraw from contact with others, or can create contention and division among us, he can more easily conquer all of us.

b) **We should unite to protect one another:** [D&C 38:27](#)

27 Behold, this I have given unto you as a parable, and it is even as I am. I say unto you, be one; and if ye are not one ye are not mine.

Consider these words of President Brigham Young as to how vital charity always is and what proceeds out of charity: **“There is one virtue, attribute, or principle, which, if cherished and practiced by the Saints, would prove salvation to thousands upon thousands.** I allude to charity, or love, from which proceed **forgiveness, long suffering, kindness, and patience”** (in Deseret News, 11 Jan. 1860, 353). **That's where those virtues come from: the capacity to love.** ([Maxwell, Neal A. 2001, February. Jesus, the perfect mentor. Ensign.](#))

- Do we understand that someone else's eternity may depend on how we treat those around us?
- Sometimes we live so far away from our loved ones that we must depend on those near them to envelope them in Christ's love and the light of the gospel.
- Years later, people won't remember the lessons and talks they heard as much as they will how well or poorly they are treated by church members.

Love Thy Neighbor: Rationale—5 Reasons to Love Our Neighbors

4) Love Makes Everyone's Burdens Bearable: [Matthew 11:28-30](#)

28 ¶Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

- When the Savior says this, He is inviting us to yoke ourselves to His power and strength to help us help others bear the adversities of their lives
- We must each endure our own, personal Gethsemanes in life
- Everyone in this ward has at least one “big boo boo”—a circumstance or struggle that is agonizingly painful in deeply personal ways
- Pain is very personal—a sacred space—like the Garden of Gethsemane
- Things that are easy for us may cause tremendous pain and heartache for others. We must treat other people's pain gently and with respect.
- Under the direction of the Spirit, we can become angels who pour encouragement, faith, hope, and strength into one another's lives in ways that enable us to endure the miseries of mortality
- More than one person in the ward is struggling with each of these issues, and some of those struggling the most are people you would least suspect:
 - Addiction (to alcohol, drugs, pornography, etc.)
 - Anxiety, depression, or mental illness
 - Challenges of motherhood
 - Children with special needs
 - Divorce
 - Financial crisis or loss of job
 - Infertility
 - Learning disabilities
 - Loneliness/Feeling Excluded
 - Loss of loved one
 - Loss of testimony
 - Marital problems
 - Miscarriage
 - Physical impairments
 - Serious illness
 - Single parenthood
 - Suicidal thoughts

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5) We Have Covenanted to Bear One Another's Burdens: [Mosiah 18:8-10](#)

8 And it came to pass that he said unto them: Behold, here are the waters of Mormon (for thus were they called) and now, as ye are desirous to come into the fold of God, and to be called his people, and **are willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light;**

9 Yea, and **are willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places that ye may be in,** even until death, that ye may be redeemed of God, and be numbered with those of the first resurrection, that ye may have eternal life—

10 Now I say unto you, if this be the desire of your hearts, what have you against being baptized in the name of the Lord, as a witness before him that ye have entered into a covenant with him, that ye will serve him and keep his commandments, **that he may pour out his Spirit more abundantly upon you?**

- We don't all struggle with the same things
- We have each been given knowledge, personal experiences, and spiritual gifts that are needed by someone else in the ward—the fact that we are living in this ward is not just a coincidence
- We can't necessarily "fix" each other's problems, but we can make them easier to bear—especially as we help one another turn to Christ (not by preaching, but by loving one another)
- Think about how you might reach out and share yourself, your experiences, and your spiritual gifts
- Neither guilt nor perfection are necessary. Instead, just decide what your very next step will be to love those around you a little bit better (family, friends, neighbors).
- As we love each other better, we receive the Spirit more abundantly, which sanctifies and perfects us, thus making us and our communities more fit for the Savior's return

Love Thy Neighbor: How can we love one another better? (General Principles)

HOW CAN WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER BETTER?

The Savior's life and perfect love is a model for how we should love others.

Description of Charity (the Savior's Perfect Love): [Moroni 7:45](#)

45 And charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

What does charity look like in practice?: [Matthew 5:43-45](#)

43 ¶Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: **for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.**

- Love others both because of, and in spite of, who they are and what they do (or don't do). DON'T JUDGE! (Example: the woman taken in adultery)
- Love others even when they don't return your love
- As we become more like the Savior, we begin to love others because of who WE are, not because of how they behave

Love Thy Neighbor: How can we love one another better? (General Principles)

How do these principles apply to the ward? Every member matters: [1 Corinthians 12:14-30](#)

14 For the body is not one member, but many.

17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

20 But now *are they* many members, yet but one body.

21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

22 Nay, **much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:**

25 That there should be no schism in the body; but ***that the members should have the same care for one another.***

26 **And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it;** or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

29 *Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?*

30 *Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?*

- Every person in the ward is needed
- Some of those who seem the least essential may be absolutely critical to the functioning of the ward
- When you fail to notice and include others, you may be denying yourself access to the very spiritual gifts that could heal your own personal heartaches
- If we are truly unified, we will feel sorrow for the sorrow of those around us, and joy when they experience joy
- When we see others suffering, we can intervene with our thoughts, words, and actions

Love Thy Neighbor: Spiritually Creating Love—THOUGHTS

A) THOUGHTS:

The Lord's thoughts are not our thoughts: [Isaiah 55:8-9](#)

8 ¶ For **my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways**, saith the Lord.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are **my ways higher than your ways**, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- We tend to love how we want to be loved, not how others need
- We need the Savior's help to know how to love someone else "perfectly"—be that our spouses, our children, or other ward members

All commandments from the Lord are spiritual in nature: [Doctrine & Covenants 29:34-35](#)

34 Wherefore, verily I say unto you that all things unto me are spiritual, and not at any time have I given unto you a law which was temporal; neither any man, nor the children of men; neither Adam, your father, whom I created.

35 Behold, I gave unto him that he should be an agent unto himself; and I gave unto him commandment, but no temporal commandment gave I unto him, for my commandments are spiritual; they are not natural nor temporal, neither carnal nor sensual.

Love is spiritually created first: [Moses 3:5](#)

5 And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew. **For I, the Lord God, created all things, of which I have spoken, spiritually, before they were naturally upon the face of the earth.** For I, the Lord God, had not caused it to rain upon the face of the earth. And I, the Lord God, had created all the children of men; and not yet a man to till the ground; for in heaven created I them; and there was not yet flesh upon the earth, neither in the water, neither in the air;

- The spiritual creation of love requires thinking of others, searching out those in need, pondering how to help, and praying for guidance.
- The story of Ammon provides a pattern for the spiritual creation of love: Preparing ♦ Noticing ♦ Asking ♦ Discerning ♦ Serving

Love Thy Neighbor: Spiritually Creating Love—THOUGHTS

1) Preparing by Cultivating the Influence of the Spirit in Our Personal Lives: [Alma 18:16](#)

16 And it came to pass that Ammon, **being filled with the Spirit of God**, therefore he perceived the thoughts of the king.

- **Remove distractions** so we can better hear and respond to the promptings of the Spirit
- **Think about and care for others**
 - Joan & Rollin Sattler - On vacation, but texting me to be sure the sisters they HT/VT have rides to work
 - Jill Lewis – Frequently run into her visiting and caring for families in the ward who are experiencing crises when I stop by to visit them

2) Notice others

- We can't love others well when we only think about ourselves
- We can't love others well unless we are actively searching for and noticing those who are struggling
- We can't love others well unless we also notice their needs—both spoken and unspoken—when we do talk with them
- It is easier to notice the needs of people when we know them well—we can accomplish this, in part, through regular home and visiting teaching
- We can show others that we notice them by expressing concern for them via text, e-mail, Facebook, phone calls
- We can show others we notice them by inviting them to join us in social activities

3) Ask (lovingly) for more information: [Alma 18:18](#)

14 Therefore Ammon turned himself unto the king, and said unto him: What wilt thou that I should do for thee, O king?

- In order to truly love others, we must understand things from their perspective, which means we have to stop assuming that we already know what they think, feel, & need.
- It is not always helpful to ask someone what we can do to help because sometimes they do not know themselves, or may feel uncomfortable telling us.

Love Thy Neighbor: Spiritually Creating Love—THOUGHTS

- Ask questions that help us to better understand the perspective of others' on their own situation. What we learn may give us the information we need in order for the Lord to guide us to know how to help.
- Some questions we could ask might include:
 - How are feeling about your situation right now? (Sometimes labeling the feelings can help clarify them, making them easier for the person to address.)
 - What are you thinking about the circumstances right now? (Sometimes people just need to untangle their thoughts by sharing them aloud.)
 - How is your situation affecting you right now? (This question can help us to understand how the person perceives their situation and gives us clues to how we might help.)
 - What is worrying you most right now? (This question can help the other person prioritize their concerns so that they can begin to address them one at a time.)
 - What are some of the things that are challenging about that for you right now? (This is another question that can provide us with ideas and information about how to help.
 - Do you see anything positive about your situation right now? (We all need to find hope and happiness in the midst of our trials. This question can help us to reframe them in more positive ways.)
 - What is the very next step you have decided to take? (This question helps the other person to take steps to resolve their own concerns.)

4) Pray for discernment to understand the other person's feelings & situation:

[Alma 18:18](#)

18 Now when the king had heard these words, he marveled again, for **he beheld that Ammon could discern his thoughts;**

- Understanding or “role-taking,” having compassion for others’ misery, and knowing how to respond require reflection and discernment
- Ask the Lord to know what questions to ask and how to interpret what the other person is saying
- Ask the Lord to draw your attention to the important facets of what the other person is saying, and for guidance and direction about how to provide support

Love Thy Neighbor: Showing Our Love Through WORDS

WORDS

- 1) **Be aware that pain is a sacred space. We should be careful how we speak of others' trials:** [Matthew 12:36](#)

36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

- 2) **Refrain from Criticism:** [3 Nephi 12:22](#)

22 But I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother shall be in danger of his judgment. And whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council; **and whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.**

- 3) **Offer Words of Encouragement:** [Isa.61:3](#)

“Much more often, **we too can give others ‘the garment of praise’ (Isa.61:3). There are so many people with no such clothing in their wardrobes—or only a T-shirt. They shiver for want of a little praise.** Meanwhile, each of us has far more opportunities for bestowing deserved praise than we ever use! How long since you’ve done that?”
([Maxwell, Neal A. 2001, February. Jesus, the perfect mentor. Ensign.](#))

- 4) **Testify of our Own Personal Experiences with Gospel Truths:** [Alma 18:39-40](#)

39 But this is not all; for he expounded unto them the plan of redemption, which was prepared from the foundation of the world; and he also made known unto them concerning the coming of Christ, and **all the works of the Lord did he make known unto them.**

40 And it came to pass that after he had said all these things, **and expounded them** to the king, that the king believed all his words.

- Satan wants us to believe that God doesn't care so that we will lose faith, give up, and stop keeping the very covenants that seal blessings upon us
- When we clarify doctrine, teach pure doctrine, and testify of our own personal experiences with doctrine, we strengthen one another's faith
 - Colette Bird & Jamie DeMeyere

Love Thy Neighbor: Showing Our Love Through ACTIONS

B) ACTIONS

1) Do we see ourselves as Saviors on Mount Zion?: [Isaiah 61:1, 3](#)

1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; **he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;**

3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, **to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;** that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.

- Make your primary goal to “alleviate heartache”
- Look for ways to help people turn the misery in their lives into joy

2) Act on Spoken & Unspoken Needs

- Listen for the unspoken needs behind the words of seemingly trite conversations
- Invite others to participate in things you are already doing, or just do a little extra (babysit, drive to appointments, go to Farm Country, Sunday dinner)

3) Take action in “small and simple” ways: [Alma 37:6-7](#)

6 Now ye may suppose that this is foolishness in me; but behold I say unto you, that **by small and simple things are great things brought to pass;** and small means in many instances doth confound the wise.

7 And the Lord God doth work by means to bring about his great and eternal purposes; and **by very small means the Lord** doth confound the wise and **bringeth about the salvation of many souls.**

- Smile and say hi
- Cheer someone up (“Heart attack” on the door)
- Come sit by me! or Can I sit by you?

Love Thy Neighbor: Showing Our Love Through ACTIONS

- Encourage someone (Send an encouraging meme to someone in a private FB message as a follow-up to a conversation)
- Express appreciation, concern, or sympathy (Dropped off 2 cookies after hearing I didn't feel good about a lesson I'd given)
- Fulfill your calling faithfully
- Gift a gift (Jar of sunshine)
- Help someone by sharing your talents (Cutting hair, reviewing a résumé, etc.)
- Help someone pack, move, or clean
- Invite someone over for dinner or take dinner to someone
- Let someone know you are thinking of them - (Bag of snacks for the plane and a note wishing someone a good trip)
- Make time to listen - To those who are depressed; to those who are grieving; to moms at home with little kids; to those who are single; to those who feel disconnected from the ward, etc.
- Remind someone of what is good about them – (Anonymous flowers with a note that said, "You are amazing!")
- Serve someone – (A sister often babysits for working parents)
- Share your testimony or explain doctrine
- Fast for someone: [Isaiah 58:6-7](#)

6 Is not this the fast that I have chosen? **to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free,** and that ye break every yoke?

7 **Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house?** when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

- There are many ways to be "hungry" and "poor" that have nothing to do with food—we can be spiritually "hungry," emotionally "starving," or socially "poor."
- One sister fasted every week for another sister who was struggling. The one doing the fasting was not a ward leader, her visiting teacher, or her neighbor. She did it out of genuine love and concern for the other sister's difficult circumstances.

Love Thy Neighbor: PROMISES As We Love One Another

PROMISES:

As we do these things, we are promised:

- 1) Love will sanctify us
- 2) Love will transform others
- 3) Love will help us to feel loved (Law of Restoration/Harvest/Golden Rule)
- 4) Love allows us to practice being more like Christ
- 5) Love will allow God to dwell within us

1) Love Sanctifies Us, Making Us More Like the Savior: [Moroni 7:47-48](#)

47 But charity is the pure love of Christ, and **it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him.**

48 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, **pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love, which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son, Jesus Christ; that ye may become the sons of God; that when he shall appear we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is; that we may have this hope; that we may be purified even as he is pure.** Amen.

“The Checklist” is Not Enough—Charity is Essential to Sanctification & Transformation: [1 Corinthians 13:1-3](#)

2 And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and **though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.**

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

2) Love Transforms Others:

Facebook Meme: “Go and love someone exactly as they are. And then watch how quickly they transform into the greatest, truest version of themselves. When one feels seen and appreciated in their own essence, one is instantly empowered.” – Wes Angelozzi

Love Thy Neighbor: PROMISES As We Love One Another

3) Loving Others Helps Us to Feel Loved (The Law of Restoration & The Law of the Harvest):

The Law of the Harvest: [Galatians 6:7](#)

7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

The Law of Restoration: [Alma 41:14-15](#)

“Therefore, my son, see that you are merciful unto your brethren; deal justly, judge righteously, and do good continually; and if ye do all these things then shall ye receive your reward; yea, ye shall have mercy restored unto you again; ye shall have justice restored unto you again; ye shall have a righteous judgment restored unto you again; and ye shall have good rewarded unto you again. For **that which ye do send out shall return unto you again, and be restored;**”

- “Jesus said love everyone, treat them kindly too; When your heart is filled with love, others will love you” (Children’s Songbook)
- What we send out will eventually be restored to us—often at unexpected times and in unexpected ways (The Relief Society President in my old ward showed up at my house at 1:30 a.m. with the boxes I had just prayed for in desperation the night before the movers came. I hadn’t communicated with her at all.)

4) Loving Others Helps Us Practice Being More Like Christ:

“Your lives, your friendships, your marriages, your families, your neighbors and coworkers currently constitute the sample of humanity which God has given you. We are each other’s clinical material, and we make a mistake when we disregard that sober fact. No wonder, therefore, we feel stress at times. The wise and insightful President Brigham Young said this: “There are no two faces alike, no two persons tempered alike; ... we are tried with each other, and large drafts are made upon our patience, forbearance, charity, and good will, in short, upon all the higher and Godlike qualities of our nature” (in Deseret News, 6 July 1862, 9). Now, you are going to have days when people make a large draft on your patience, when they lay claim to your long-suffering that you may feel they don’t quite deserve. This is part of the chemistry that goes on in discipleship if we are serious about it, as we constitute each other’s clinical material. ([Maxwell, Neal A. 2001, February. Jesus, the perfect mentor. Ensign.](#))

Love Thy Neighbor: PROMISES As We Love One Another

A word to those who don't feel loved:

- **People are doing the best they can given their circumstances at the time** – People don't generally wake up and think, "How can I make this day absolutely miserable for everyone around me?"
- **Generous Interpretations** – Assume the best. Give people the benefit of the doubt. Choose not to take offense.
- **Avoid the pursuit of "the inner ring"** - ([Lewis, C.S. 1944. The inner ring. The Lewis Society](#)).

5) Love Allows God to Dwell Within Us: [1 John 4:12-13](#)

12 ...If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

- Charity is where true happiness comes from, because it brings us into closer relation to the Godhead—the source of all happiness.

"Though God loves us perfectly, He will not force us to love Him in return. We are invited to 'abide' in His love (see [John 15:10](#)), but we must freely choose to do so...

We show love to God when we obey the second great commandment: 'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself' ([Matt. 22:39](#)). And **this commandment cannot be kept only within our hearts. We show love with our deeds.** 'My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.'

In a day when men are 'lovers of their own selves' and 'without natural affection' ([2 Tim. 3:2-3](#)) and when 'the love of many shall wax cold' ([Matt. 24:12](#)), we can find spiritual safety and a sure anchor for our soul in love of God and of our fellowmen. **As we fulfill the two great commandments, John assures us that we will find fellowship with the Father:** 'If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us' ([1 Jn. 4:12](#)). And in a time that is becoming ever more fearful, **we can come to know personally that 'perfect love casteth out fear' ([1 Jn. 4:18](#))"** ([Elder H. Ross Workman of the Seventy. 2003, December. Words of the Early Apostles: Safely Anchored by Love, Ensign](#)).

- My Testimony of These Principles