

## The School of Biblical Law

### Introduction to Law and Grace

#### Lesson Thirty Two: “The New Testament Law of Love – Part 2”

Jesus commanded His followers to follow His example of love by laying down their lives one for another (Jn. 15:13). In addition to the Gospels, many of the epistles reiterate Christ’s commandment to love. How love acts is not a new concept found only in the New Covenant; but within the pages of the New Testament, love is fully revealed and fully defined.

1. I John 2:7-8, “Brethren, I write no new (*kainos*) commandment (*entole*) unto you, but an old (*palaios*) commandment (*entole*) which ye had from the beginning (*arche*). The old (*palaios*) commandment (*entole*) is the word (*logos*) which ye have heard from the beginning (*arche*). Again, a new (*kainos*) commandment (*entole*) I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in your; Because the darkness is past and the true light now shineth.”

New is the Greek word *kainos* (Strong’s #2537) and means new as in fresh rather than new with respect to age, which is the Greek word *neos* (Strong’s 3501).

Commandment is the Greek word *entole* (Strong’s #1785) and means authoritative prescription or precept.

Beginning is the Greek word *arche* (Strong’s #746) and means first, cornerstone, beginning.

Word is the Greek word *logos* (Strong’s #3056) and means something said including the thought, the spoken word and the logic or meaning of that word.

2. I John 3:11 -16, “For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning (*arche*), that we should love (*agapao*) one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother . . . We know that we have passed from death unto life (*zoe*), because we love (*agapao*) the brethren. He that loveth (*agapao*) not his brother abideth in death . . . Hereby perceive (*ginosko*) we the love (*agape*) of God, because he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

Love is the Greek verb *agapao* (Strong’s #25) or noun *agape* (Strong’s #26) and means affection, charity, benevolence.

Perceive is the Greek word *ginosko* (Strong’s # 1097) and means to know, understand, or be aware.

Life is the Greek word *zoe* (Strong’s #2222) from *zao* (Strong’s #2198) meaning be alive, quickened, the God kind of life.

3. I John 4:7-11, “Beloved, let us love (*agapao*) one another: for love (*agape*) is of God; and every one that loveth (*agapao*) is born of God and knoweth (*ginosko*) God. He that loveth (*agapao*) not, knoweth (*ginosko*) not God; for God is love (*agape*). In this was manifested (*phaneroo*) the love (*agape*) of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten son into the world, that we might live (*zao*) through him. Here is love (*agape*), not that we loved (*agapao*) God, but that he loved (*agapao*) us, and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved (*agapao*) us, we ought to love (*agapao*) one another.”

Manifested is the Greek word *phaneroo* (Strong’s #5319) and means cause to appear.

God’s love is the opposite of self-love, which prioritizes the desires and needs of oneself over needs of others. “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world’s goods, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth” (I John 3:16-18). Love as revealed in both the Old and New Testaments is a systematic commitment to the welfare of others in terms of God’s