

Love Perfected In Us

How can love be all it is supposed to be?

1 John 2:3—6; 4:12, 16

God is love...

The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1 John 4:8

Love is from God--

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7

God's love is in marriages—

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.

Ephesians 5:25

What does it look like?

Patient	Kind	Not Jealous	Does not brag/arrogant
Not act unbecomingly	Not seek its own	Not provoked	Not take into account a wrong
Not rejoice in unrighteousness	Rejoices in truth	Bears all things	Believes all things
Hopes all things	Endures all things	Love never fails	1 Corinthians 13:1--8

How can this love be perfected in me?

Agape love is a fundamental part of His character. He is its originator—He gives it to His children. Its greatest expression was giving Himself up for us. This love is always perfect—but how can it be perfected in me?

1. Obey His word—and by so doing know Him and believe His love.

By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, ‘I have come to know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word in him the *love of God has truly been perfected.* 1 John 2:3--6

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.

1 John 4:16

2. Loving others

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God...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.

1 John 4:7, 11, 12
