



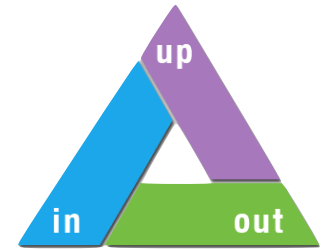
Our House

“Abiding in the House of Love”

Mark 12:28-31; John 15:9-12;
& 1 John 4:19-21
April 23, 2023 | Tyler Williams

Our Mission

“Christ followers joining God on mission
and growing in our love
for God,
neighbours, and
one another.”



Love for God

- Our most basic covenant response to God’s prior love and deliverance (Mark 12:29-30; Matt 22:37-38; Luke 10:27; all quoting Deut 6:5).
- Loving God = obedience (Deut 10:12; John 14:23).
- Heart, Soul, Mind, Strength = Everything you have!

Love for Neighbours

- Jesus linked loving God with loving your neighbour as yourself (Mark 12:31; Matthew 22:39-40; Luke 10:27; quoting Leviticus 19:18).
- Sums up the entire Torah (Rom 13:9; Gal 5:14; James 2:8) and even extends to enemies (Matt 5:43-44; Luke 6:27, 35).

Love for One Another

- Jesus raises the bar with a “new commandment” (John 13:34-35, 15:9-17; 1John 3:11-12, 23, 5:2).
- We are not only to love neighbour as we love ourselves, but love *as Jesus has loved us!*

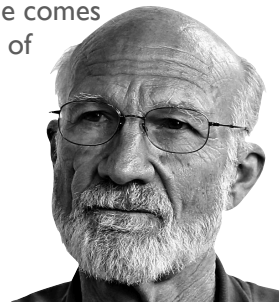
All You Need is Love!

- We are commanded to love God, neighbours, and one another — and the standard for this love is the love of God!
- Now go and do it!!!

Love's Not All You Need!

“God does not exist to make love real, but love is real because God exists. God can come to us in love only because he comes to us as God, the creator, sustainer, and redeemer of our existence.... His command to love is not an abstract and general policy that can be separated from the story that this is God working for our redemption.”

– Stanley Hauerwas,
“Love's not all you need,” 228.



The Source of All Love

“We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ but hates others, he is a liar; for whoever doesn’t love others whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. ²¹And this commandment we have from him: that anyone who loves God must also love others” (1John 4:19-21).

The Source of All Love

- Our love is based on the prior love of God the Father, Son, and Spirit.
- Our love must be lived out.
- Only possible through the Spirit's work in us.

The Source of All Love

~~“God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us” (Rom 5:5).~~
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Abiding in God’s Love

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now *abide in my love*. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and abide in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you” (John 15:9-12).

Abiding in God’s Love

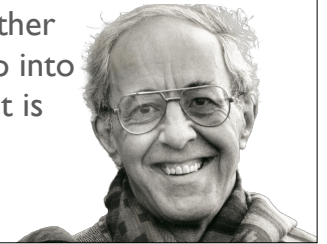
- “Now abide/remain in my love” (John 15:9, NIV, NRSV, NLT).
- “Never stop walking this road of love” (FNV).
- “Make yourselves at home in my love” (MSG).

Abiding in God's Love

- Abide/dwell/remain (*meno, μενω*).
- An intimate and ongoing covenantal relationship.
- Called to “abide continuously” in him, and he will abide “in us.”

“Home is that place or space where we do not need to be afraid but can let go of our defences and be free, free from worries, free from tensions, free from pressures. Home is where we can laugh and cry, embrace and dance, sleep long and dream quietly, eat, read, play, watch the fire, listen to music, and be with a friend. Home is where we can rest and be healed. The word ‘home’ brings together a wide range of feelings and emotions up into one image, the image of a house where it is good to be: **the house of love.**”

– Henri Nouwen, *Lifesigns*, 15.



Abiding in the House of Love

- We need to know we are beloved... Know we are loved by God.
- And then we need to allow God's love to indwell, infuse, and transform us into the image of his Son, Jesus Christ.

Abiding in the House of Love

