

Fifty Key Texts on Love

[from Alexander Strauch's book, *Love or Die: Christ's Wake-up Call to the Church*, pages 87-89.]

Read and slowly meditate on each of these fifty texts of Scripture. If you desire, look up each text in your Bible so that you can read each one in its full context. Don't rush! say with the Psalmist "O how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day" (Ps.119:97).

1. The Lord...proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious...abounding in steadfast love." (Ex. 34:6)
2. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Lev. 19:18)
3. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. (Deut. 6:5)
4. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you...but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers. (Deut.7:7-8)
5. Yet the Lord set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them. (Deut. 10:15)
6. But I have trusted in your steadfast love. (Ps. 13:5)
7. His steadfast love endures forever. (Ps. 106:1)
8. In his love and in his pity he redeemed them. (Isa. 63:9)
9. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. (Jer. 31:3)
10. And the Lord said to me [Hosea], "Go again, love a woman [Gomer] who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods." (Hosea 3:1)
11. I will love them [Israel] freely. (Hosea 14:4)
12. Love your enemies. (Matt. 5:44)
13. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.... This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the prophets. (Matt.22:37-40)

14. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son. (John 3:16)
15. The Father loves the Son. (John 3:35)
16. If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (John 14:15)
17. I [the Son] love the Father. (John 14:31)
18. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (John 15:10)
19. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. (John 15:9)
20. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?... [Nothing in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:35,39)
21. Let love be genuine. (Rom. 12:9)
22. Owe no one anything, except to love each other' (Rom. 13:8)
23. Love is the fulfilling of the law' (Rom' 13:10)
24. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds' (1 Cor' 8:1)
25. And I will show you a still more excellent way [love]. (1 Cor. 12:31)
26. If I... understand all mysteries and all knowledge... but have not love, I am nothing. (1 Cor. 13:2)
27. The greatest of these is love. (1 Cor. 13:13)
28. Pursue love. (1 Cor. 14:1)
29. Let all that you do be done in love. (1 Cor. 16:14)
30. For the love of Christ controls us. (2 Cor. 5:14)
31. The fruit of the Spirit is love. (Gal. 5:22)
32. But God... because of the great love with which he loved us... made us alive together with Christ. (Eph. 2:4-5)
33. To know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. (Eph. 3:19)
34. Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. (Eph. 5:2)
35. And this is my prayer that your love may abound more and more. (Phil. 1:9)

36. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (Col.3:14)
37. May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all. (1 Thess. 3:12)
38. The aim of our charge is love. (1 Tim. 1:5)
39. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love. (Heb.10:24)
40. Love one another earnestly from a pure heart. (1 Peter 7:22)
41. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. (1 Peter 4:8)
42. Whoever does not love abides in death. (1 John 3:14)
43. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us' (1 John 3:16)
44. Let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. (1 John 3:18)
45. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (1 John 4:7)
46. God is love. (1John 4:8)
47. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:10)
48. We love because he first loved us. (1 John 4:19)
49. Keep yourselves in the love of God. (Jude 21)
50. To him [Jesus] who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood. (Rev 1:5)