

The Articles of
Matthew Perez

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Love

“We love because he first loved us.” - 1 John 4:19 -

Love, how amazing it is. It is a concept we should know and search for daily to fully appreciate it. It is a concept we should spread and share to one another as we venture from day-to-day. It is a concept that is too magnificent and amazing to keep bottled up. Through this act, families share each other's laughter, affection, dreams, and hope. On the other side, without this gesture, families are confused, lost, mistreated and, sadly, torn apart.

“And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:30-31) - In this passage, Christ lays down two fundamental, and profound elements to our faith. The first commandment is straightforward, yet essential for the adoration we possess towards our FATHER. The following verse tells us to share the love that GOD has shown to us, to our fellow peers/friends/compadres/buddies/acquaintances/amigos and, as Christ so eloquently put it, to our ‘neighbors’.

It is important for everyone (and especially every Christian), to understand completely the notion of love in its entirety. This kind of unchained and appealing love that a Christian is to have must be displayed by what he does. “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35) If we continue to demonstrate and show our love to the strangers we meet; to our peers outside of the church; with the close friends we hangout with; and ultimately our family when we see them - we're already following the trail and example that Christ set before us. More so than this, we're obeying the ‘new commandment’ Christ laid down for you and me.

Sometimes I know it seems to be easier to be a tad ‘stand-offish’ at times, or impetuous towards one another, or maybe a little rude than it is to really show an act of kindness, or to extend a helping hand, or to give up your time for someone. But the latter is something we should be incorporating into who we are and what we enjoy doing. Not only will it be uplifting and encouraging for the other party, but through this key element will be imitating Jesus Christ. “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to GOD” (Ephesians 5:1-2).

So Brethren, continue to shine through and shine bright, constantly advancing each day with a sincere love for thy FATHER, thy self, and for thy neighbor. And let us sustain the love that GOD has gracefully showered upon us by keeping his commandments - “By

this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” (1 John 5:2-3).

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