

# Loving Observations

Romans 13:8-10

Introduction: If I were asked to sum up what it means to be a Christian in one word, I believe that word would be “love” (Rom. 13:8-10).

- Love originates from God (1 John 4:7).
- Love encompasses the whole law (Gal. 5:14).
- Love is what has made it possible for us to go to heaven (John 3:16).
- Love will exist forever (1 Cor. 13:8).

Love is a broad subject. I can’t even begin to say everything that needs to be said concerning love. However, I would like to make a few observations on this very important topic.

## I. Love causes people to do extreme things.

A. Love of money causes people to give up their faith (1 Tim. 6:10).

1. People will lie, cheat and steal for money.
2. Christians will miss services to earn extra money (second jobs, overtime at work, etc).
3. We can’t serve two masters (Matt. 6:24).

B. Love causes people to give up their own lives (John 15:13).

1. Many in the military throughout the ages have sacrificed their lives.
2. Some donate organs to save a loved one.
3. What parent wouldn’t give their life for their child?
4. The greatest example is Christ’s sacrifice on the cross (Eph. 5:2).

C. Love makes us honest and obedient (1 John 2:3-5; John 14:23; Prov. 12:22).

## II. Sin has a chilling affect on love (Matt. 24:12).

A. Love never approves of sin (1 Cor. 13:6). Love “*does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth.*”

1. Many justify sin by calling it love. For example:

- a. Someone in an illicit relationship calling it love.
- b. Forsaking church out of a love for their neighbor during the

Coronavirus.

2. One can’t sin against God and claim to love at the same time. It illustrates someone who doesn’t understand love.

3. Ironically, sinners seek love through forgiveness though their offense is the cause by which love was lost.

B. If we fear God, we will hate sin (Prov. 8:13).

1. Our love for God and our hatred of sin is what motivates us to discipline our children as parents and our erring brethren as fellow Christians (Heb. 12:5-11; Rev. 3:19).

2. Therefore, discipline (including withdrawal) is an act of love (Prov. 3:11-12). I'm sure we all would rather suffer withdrawal than to have to suffer in hell (1 Cor. 5:4-5).

III. Love allows us to forgive and be forgiven (Rom. 4:7; Jas. 5:20; 1 Pet. 4:8).

A. Is it no wonder that we must treat our brethren with love (Rom. 13:8-10; 1 John 4:20-21)?

B. We won't be forgiven if we won't forgive others (Mark 11:25-26).

Conclusion: There is no law against love (Gal. 5:22-23). Loving is what every Christian should and must be in their life. If we love God and seek His forgiveness, we would gladly repent of our sins.