

WISDOM FROM GOD'S WORD

Joy in Jesus Christ

Principles of Spiritual Maturity: A Growing Love

Philippians 1:9-11

Truth: The Christian finds his/her joy in Jesus Christ through an ever increasing love for the Lord and others.

- Exodus 20:2-17
- Deuteronomy 5:6-21
- Matthew 22:36-40

1. Four words that express love in the New Testament.

- *thelo* - to desire what is best for others based on a common love for others (Matthew 8:2-3).
- *prophilace* - that which is worthy of love. (Philippians 4:8).
- *phileo* - to have and show love toward another person as a friend (John 11).
- *agapao* - God's love for us, our love for God, the love we are to demonstrate toward each other, and the love we are to have for self.

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2. Godly love vs. brotherly love.

• Brotherly love

- A love shared between friends.
- Based on common desires and interests.
- Motivated and directed by emotions.

• Godly love.

- The highest level of love expressed and experienced.
- A love shared between God and people.
- Based on Godly desires and motivated by the will.

- Godly love sees and understands what a person needs, then chooses to meet that need.

- John 3:16-17 Romans 5:6,8,10 ◦ Ephesians 2:1-5

3. Loving God and others.

- Seldom with brotherly love; always with Godly love.
- 1 John 4:16-19
- John 15:9-14
