

1. Love Jesus
2. Befriend the confused
3. Esteem one another
4. Edify one another
5. Forgive
6. Protect
7. Correct
8. Reconcile
9. Restore

Love Protects, Corrects, Reconciles and Restores.

Matthew 18:1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

² And He called a child to Himself and set him before them,

³ and said, “Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵ “And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me;

⁶ but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it is better for him that a heavy millstone be hung around his neck, and that he be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷ “Woe to the world because of *its* stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!

⁸ “And if your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the eternal fire.

⁹ “And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out, and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than having two eyes, to be cast into the fiery hell.

¹⁰ “See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you, that their angels in heaven continually behold the face of My Father who is in heaven.

¹¹ “*For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.*

¹² “What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying?

¹³ “And if it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray.

¹⁴ “Thus it is not *the* will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.

The four steps of reconciliation and restoration in a functional family:

Step 1. A lifestyle of loving enough to talk about it

¹⁵ “And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

Step 2. Asking for help

¹⁶ But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed.”

Step 3. Intervention

¹⁷ “And if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church,

Step 4. Tough love

let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax-gatherer.”

Objection: “Who are you to correct me? Only God is my judge!”

¹⁸ “Truly I say to you, whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.

²⁰ For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst.”

10. Serve

Galatians 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only *do not turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

¹⁴ For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, take care lest you be consumed by one another.

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

11. Care

Romans 12:9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.

¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

¹¹ not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

¹² rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,

¹³ contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and curse not.

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly...

12. Share

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

¹⁶ We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

¹⁷ But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

¹⁸ Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

13. Practice hospitality

Hebrews 13:1 Let love of the brethren continue.

² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

³ Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.

14. Minister together

1 Thessalonians 4:9 Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for *anyone* to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

¹⁰ for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more,

15. Influence

1 John 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.

³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

16. Pray

2 Timothy 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day,

⁴ longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy.

For further reflection study 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 replacing the word, "love," with your name.

All Scripture: NASV