

Love Is Fulfilling the Law

#0554

Study by W.D. Frazee

I am sure that it is possible for human beings, either the hearers or the speaker, to measure the relevant importance of subjects that are presented in a series. But I will just suggest to you that I think that what we have to study tonight is perhaps the most important lesson that we have had in our series on the three angel's messages. I think as you follow along from text to text, some of you will feel impressed in that same way.

Now we are studying Revelation the 14th chapter. The great threefold message calling our attention to the worship of the Creator, the fall of Babylon, warning against the false worship of the beast and his image, the reception of his mark, and the climax of it all is in this 12th verse. This is the product.

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus”
Revelation 14:12.

Notice that as soon as these people are developed, the fourteenth verse brings us to the coming of Jesus. He is coming as soon as the harvest is ripe. He is coming as soon as His people are ready. So we can help to bring His coming more quickly by entering in to the experience that this verse brings. Is that right? That is why we are here tonight, isn't it? Yes.

By the way, according to this 12th verse, is it possible for the commandments of God to be kept in this world? Yes. You notice it doesn't say, There are the people up in heaven who keep the commandments of God. Are there some people up there who keep the commandments? Oh yes. The Psalmist says:

“For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven”
Psalms 119:89 .

But the marvel of it all, the miracle of God's grace is when people down here in this world, in this present evil world keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. And as we have noted, the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus are united. And what God has joined together, let not man put asunder. That is right.

Now this keeping of the commandments of God is what I would like to study with you a bit tonight. With the Master's help, I trust that it can be made very simple. In fact, the Bible makes it so simple that it is all one word. Let's turn to Galatians the fifth chapter and the 14th verse. I want you to see how simple the keeping of the commandments of God is:

“For all the law is fulfilled in one word” Galatians 5:14.

That is really getting it boiled down, isn't it? What is the word? Love. That is right.

“...even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself”
Galatians 5:14.

Let's take another text:

“Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law” Romans 13:10.

Now notice, it does not say, if you love you will fulfill the law. That is true, but that isn't what he says. He says love is the fulfilling of the law. Love is the fulfilling of the law. And so the eighth verse says:

“He that loveth another hath fulfilled the law” Romans 13:8.

Does that really mean what it says? You mean if a person loves, he has already obeyed the law? That is all the law requires? That is true. That is all there is to keeping the commandments of God. Just love.

Well, somebody says, “that is easier than I thought it was.”

Somebody else may be saying, “that is harder than I thought it was.”

Some of you, you see, may have some problems trying to love the people that you are supposed to love. Some people are hard to love, friends. Did you ever see somebody that was hard to love? You might have been looking in the mirror at yourself.

There are people that are hard to love. There are some people that the only way anybody could love them would be to be a Christian. But that is what keeping the commandments means. Love is the fulfilling of the law. He that loveth another has fulfilled the law.

Do you love others better than yourself? Do you love anybody as well as you do yourself? Even one person?

“He that loveth another hath fulfilled the law” Romans 13:8.

Well, God is going to have some people that will do it.

“Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” Revelation 14:12.

“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” John 13:35.

‘this is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you” John 15:12.

Now I am going to read you a wonderful statement from *The Desire of Ages*:

“When His parting words are fulfilled, ‘Love one another, as I have loved you’ (John 15:12); when we love the world as He has loved it, then for us His mission is accomplished. We are fitted for heaven; for we have heaven in our hearts” *The Desire of Ages*, page 641.

You know I would like to live in a world where everybody loves me. Wouldn’t you? I wonder why we can’t go there tonight. It seems to me it would be easy for me to be a Christian if I was in a place where everybody loved me. People would always be doing things for me and never get in my road, you understand, never block me, never criticize me, never get angry with me, never find fault. Always trying to help me and always doing things for me. I think I could be nice there.

What about you? Listen, friends, let’s not fool ourselves. You know where all this pulling away from love started? Where? In Heaven. Oh no! Surely not! It must have been way off on the outskirts of the universe somewhere where people didn’t get very much love.

Where did it start? In Heaven. You mean that? Right there where the love of God was revealed in full and glorious display? Right there all this selfishness started? Yes. Strange isn’t it? Yes. It is a mystery. It can’t be explained. But that ought to teach us, friends, that what we need is not so much a change of location as a change of heart. A trip to Heaven will not make a single one of us loving anymore than a trip across the waters will make a man a missionary. Is that right? Yes.

The only foreign missionaries are home missionaries. And the only saints in heaven will be those who have been saints where? Here.

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus”
Revelation 14:12.

And all the commandments, all the law fulfilled in one word, is what? Love. Love is the fulfilling of the law. He that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

“When we love the world as He has loved it, then for us His mission is accomplished. We are fitted for heaven; for we have heaven in our hearts” *The Desire of Ages*, page 641.

Sometimes when I get to looking at this, I think, My, we just ought to keep right at this and not work at anything else until we master this because when we have this mastered Jesus is coming, friends. And do you know, really, this is practical, down to earth. The One who loves you and me has arranged for those who will let Him every experience of life to be a laboratory experiment in this experience.

That is right. That is why we are together in the church. That is why we are together in the home. That is why we meet various experiences from day to day. It is to learn and practice, and practice as we learn, and learn as we practice this divine science of love.

Well, somebody says, "Brother Frazee, you just don't know the folks I have to live with."

No, I don't. I will grant that. Neither do you.

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9.

Nobody knows his own heart let alone the heart of others. But, oh, thank God, the One who searches the hearts of men has offered to let the mind of Christ Jesus be in us, to let the love of Christ be in our hearts. And cultivating it, and using it, we can develop the experience that Christ revealed here on earth. I want that. Don't you?

But I will tell you, friends, in this as in many other subjects, the difficulty is that people do not begin at the right place. That is the problem. And that is what I want to study with you tonight. If you were beginning to count, where would you begin? Well, if you know about counting, you have to begin with one. Nobody ever began with three or five or even two. The first thing that counts is what? One.

When God made this world in the beginning the evening and the morning were the what? The first day. Not the second or the third? God begins with what? With one. We had better do the same, hadn't we? We had better begin with one. And I want to tell you something, friends, the First Commandment, the first experiment, the first assignment in this science of love is not to love your father, or your mother, or your brother, or your sister, or your husband, or your wife, or that difficult neighbor, or that hard to get along with roommate, or that whatever. That isn't the first assignment at all. And anybody who begins by trying to love somebody in his home or outside is not beginning at the beginning. And he is sure to flunk the grade that he is trying to master.

Well, you know if a student would go to school and insist on trying the fifth grade or even the second before he knew a thing about the first, he would be sure to fail. Wouldn't he? Yes. And that is what thousands of people in this world are doing. They are trying to have a happy home, and it can't be had without love. They are trying to love one another in the home and they are making a miserable success of it which is a failure all because they have not begun at the beginning. They have never been through the first grade.

Well, you say, "Where do we begin?"

Well, let's turn over to Matthew 22 and let the Master tell us. And if we will begin with God, we can go on with God and succeed with God. Matthew 22:37-38:

“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment” Matthew 22:37-38.

What is the First Commandment? To love who? God. How much? With all your heart and all your soul and all your might. How much would that leave for somebody else?

You say, “Brother Frazee, I don’t understand that. Surely we ought to save some for parents, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, and other people?”

No, not a bit. And here again is where people miss this. This means, dear friends, exactly what it says. It is not hyperbole. It is not exaggeration. God means exactly what He says. And He says this is which commandment? The first and great commandment. To love God with what? All your heart. Give Him all the love you have. You will never learn through love unless you begin at the beginning.

Now there is a lot of what is called love in the world and it is just a name for selfishness, infatuation, feeling, impulse. All sorts of names might be used to describe it. But that isn’t love. We are going to study real love tonight. Let me tell you, friends, real love is so wonderful that the one who experiences it would rather die with it than live without it. That is right.

Oh, I pray that every soul here tonight may enter in fully into the wonderful experience of love. God wants you to have it, friends. Alright. Now will you repeat this First Commandment with me?

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment” Matthew 22:37-38.

Love Him with all the heart. Well, somebody says, “I thought we were supposed to love others?”

Yes, but that is not first. That is second as you will notice in the 39th verse:

“And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself” Matthew 22:39.

Suppose we work on the first grade a little. What do you say? See if we can get a passing grade in that section. Then we might tackle the second. And I will tell you, friends, if you will stop and think about it a minute, God ought to be easier to love than some people you are acquainted with. Shouldn’t He? Well, why tackle the hardest thing first? Why not take it in the order that God puts it?

God is never unkind. He is never unreasonable. He is never obstinate. He is never sulking. He is never selfish. God ought to be easy to love. But, of course, friends, even God can’t be loved unless we receive His love and love Him back. You and I are like the moon. We have no light of ourselves, but we can reflect. And each

one of us is to be a reflector. Looking into the face of Jesus, that lovely face, we are to reflect that love back to Him.

Well, now somebody says, "Well, then isn't there any left for others?"

No. Not a bit.

"Well then how are we going to do this loving others?"

Well, I will tell you, friends. It is very simple. I have some money here in my purse. It is not a great deal. But it will serve to illustrate. Now suppose that for some reason I should feel that I should give everything here, suppose I owed everything in this purse to Elder Victor here. But although I know that I owe it all to him, I get a generous spurt and I think, Well, I will tell you. I would like to give a dollar of this to the Elder here, and I would like to give another dollar to a sister over here. I know I owe it all to Elder Victor, but I start passing it out.

Do I have a right to do that? Well, it is mine. It is in my pocket, isn't it? But I owe it all to who? I owe it all to Elder Victor. Now do I have a right to take that money that I owe to him and start passing it out to the audience here? Would you take it if I would offer it to you? Well, you see that is the problem, dear friends, there are a lot of people in this world that are accepting love which is offered to them that they have no right to accept. The individual owes it to God. And they are passing it out to others. And instead of making people happy, in the end, it makes them very unhappy, both the giver and the acceptor in that sort of thing.

No, the right thing for every one of you to do if I start passing out this money which I owe to Elder Victor is to say, "Well, Brother, now really that isn't yours. Hadn't you better pay it to the one it really belongs to?" Could you do that? Could you? Would you? Oh, I hope so, friends.

All right. So I give it all to him because it is what? It belongs to him. All right. And suppose now that when I give it all to him, he says, "Well now, that is fine. I appreciate that. Now I tell you what I want done with this money which is mine in the first place, and which was in your purse, and which you have given back to me, all of it. Now I would like to have you take that money, and I want you to give a dollar to the Elder here, and the sister here, and so on." Would that be alright? Why sure it would be alright.

Do you see, friends, what I mean? If we will give God all our love, God will then say, "Well, now since you have given Me all your love, I am going to make you My agent, My steward, My ambassador, My representative to pass out that love." And friends, when we do it that way it works all right.

Now, of course, if Elder here should take this money which I have given him, which was his in the first place, and tell me that he wanted me to give a dollar to this man or this woman, and I should say, "Well, you know, I don't think they need it. I see somebody down the aisle here. I think they need it worse than these folks. I think I will give it to them." Would that be the way to do it? No. If it is his in the first place, and now it is twice his for I have given it to him, should I look to him, watch

this point, should I look to him for direction as to who I pass it out to? Should I? Why, sure. Friends, that is the way to love. That is the way to love.

Oh, if we would be just like little children and say to our Heavenly Father, “Well, Lord, who do you want me to take a flower to today? Who do you want me to give a bouquet to today? Who do you want me to give some nice apricots to today? Who do you want me to give a kind word to today? Who do you want me to give a smile to today?”

Well, you say, “I think everybody ought to give a kind word and a smile to everybody.”

Are you sure, friends? Well, I am not. I am not at all. I think there are some people that you shouldn't smile at all.

You say, “Well, that is a strange thing.”

Well, if you don't understand it, you ask God about it. If He tells you to smile at everybody, you do it. But it will bear some study and some prayer.

My point is this, friends, love is a sacred gift. It is a precious gift. And when God gives it to us and we give it back to Him with how much of the heart? All the heart. And then He turns and says to us, “Alright. Now here is somebody I want you to love. Here is somebody I want you to love. And there yonder is somebody I want you to love.” Let's do it where He tells us, and how He tells us, and when He tells us. What do you say, friends? That is recognizing His ownership and our stewardship.

Well, you say, “How will we know?”

Well, friends, that is what the Ten Commandments are about. That is what they are. The first table commandments one, two, three, four in the Ten Commandments have to do with our love to whom? God. And the last six have to do with our love to man.

All right. Now let's look at that first table. What is the First Commandment in the ten?

“Thou shalt have no other gods before Me” Exodus 20:3.

That comes back, you see, to what we have already studied that the man who loves somebody else instead of God or before God is an idolater. He is breaking the commandments. I don't know that I ever had this more forcibly illustrated to me than in an experience I had in an evangelistic series in Tulsa, Oklahoma a number of years ago. There was a young man attending the meetings. He came from night to night and he was drinking in the truth and accepting it. He became convicted over the Sabbath. He was a member of another church that doesn't keep the Sabbath, he and his young wife. But he became convicted that he should keep the true seventh-day Sabbath according to the Bible.

Do you know what his wife told him? She said, "Look here. If you start keeping that Sabbath I will leave you." Do you know what he did? He didn't keep the Sabbath. He thought he loved his wife so much that he couldn't bear to disappoint her and break up the home, and so, he kept on breaking God's commandment because he loved his wife. Or, that is what he thought.

Do you know what happened, friends? In less than six months that very woman was suing him for divorce. Well, you see, he lost everything. He lost the home. He lost his wife. And he lost the joy of obedience to God. He didn't keep the First Commandment. Did he, friends?

Love is a wonderful thing if we learn the science of it, but we must begin at the first. And the first is to love God with all the heart. Now one, two, three, four over here on this side, and five, six, seven, eight, nine, and ten on love to fellow man. And when we love God with all the heart, then God tells us in five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten how to use His love in loving others.

And what is the First Commandment of the second table? What is it?

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee"
Exodus 20:12.

Do you mean that my first assignment as I come into life is to love my father and mother? Is that true? Well, some of us are glad we are grown up and don't have to go through that. Tell me, friends, if a person doesn't learn to read when he is seven or eight or nine or ten or eleven years old, then he doesn't have to worry about it after he is grown up. Does he? Can a person that has never learned to read learn to read when he is 30 years old? Should he if he gets a chance? Yes.

All right. If there is somebody here that is 30 years old tonight that never learned to love your father and mother and obey them, dear friend, it isn't too late yet. And I suggest to you that you will never know the fullness of love until you have learned to love your father and mother. And if that holds at 30, it certainly holds at 13. Doesn't it?

You know, it is amazing how when we get to be about 12 and 13, 14, 15, for some it hits earlier, some a little later, we get the idea that we are almost ready to graduate from being held in confinement. We are about ready to escape from the penitentiary. We think perhaps we ought to have a little time off for good behavior.

But, my dear friends, what we are studying tonight is not the penitentiary. Instead of time off for good behavior, it is time added on for good behavior.

"That thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee" Exodus 20:12.

I want to read you an interesting comment from the book *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 308. Here is the inspired commentary on the Fifth Commandment:

“Parents are entitled to a degree of love and respect which is due to no other person” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 308.

What? You mean there is nobody in all the world that is due the love and respect that my parents are? That is what it says. So when I start dishing out this money that isn't mine of which I am just the agent, shall I give pennies to my parents and dollars to my girlfriends and my boyfriends? Is that the program? Is that it, friends? A mother's day card once a year to mother, and all sorts of expensive presents to young friends? Is that the program?

Well, it is not the program we are studying tonight, is it? No.

“Parents are entitled to a degree of love and respect which is due to no other person” *Ibid*.

Just as I am to love God with all the heart, if I don't accept, so if I do not learn in the home the lesson of love from my parents and respect for my parents and obedience to my parents as an expression of love, my dear friends, who is it under those circumstances that is going to tell me when I am in my teens, or in my twenties, “What you need Bill is just to get out of the nest where you can find somebody to love and get away from all these restrictions, and hard problems. What you need is just to get out and there you will find somebody to love.”

Who is it that puts that in my head if my attitude toward my parents is one of failure to love and respect? Who is it that does that? The Devil. That is right. Do you believe it? Well, he must have a lot of folks listening, friends, because almost all the couples that are applying for marriage licenses and those that are trying out what they call love before getting any license or without any license, all most all of them, friends, 99 out of 100 if you want the figures, have never learned what we are studying tonight. They have never passed the first grade. They have never learned to love and obey their parents and find joy in it.

Ah, buy somebody says, “Brother Frazee, you don't know the father and mother I have.”

No. I don't. But, oh, I thank God that we are dealing with the glorious promise of our Heavenly Father. And where sin abounds there grace much more abounds. With men this is impossible, but not with God, for with God all things are possible.

I want to read you something from the last page of *Messages to Young People*:

“True love is a high and holy principle, altogether different in character from that love which is awakened by impulse, and which suddenly dies when severely tested. It is by faithfulness to duty in the parental home that the youth are to prepare themselves for homes of their own”
Messages to Young People, page 466.

Where do the youth prepare for homes of their own? In the parental home. What does that mean "in the parental home?" Why, in the home of the parents. My father and mother had a home, and I grew up in that home. Now that is to prepare me for what? A home of my own. Well if I flunk that, if I go AWOL or just simply endure it and never learn the lesson, then can I go out and make a successful home of my own? No. The person that fails the first grade does pass successfully to the second.

"It is by faithfulness to duty in the parental home that the youth are to prepare themselves for homes of their own. Let them here practice self-denial, and manifest kindness, courtesy, and Christian sympathy. Thus love will be kept warm in the heart, and he who goes out from such a household to stand at the head of a family of his own will know how to promote the happiness of her whom he has chosen as a companion for life" *Ibid.*

Ah, dear ones, do you see, God intends the home to be the kindergarten of love for the children as they grow up. Yes. And dear children and youth, whether you are six years old or 16, or 26, or whatever, listen, please, oh please, never let your mind be diverted or be distracted or deceived by the idea and the world is full of it today that you can fail in the first grade and yet make a wonderful success in the second grade. Don't fool yourself!

That young person of your own age that you think is so wonderful has faults, doubtless, just as deep and just as definite as any that your father and your mother and your brother and your sister have. Under the spell of infatuation you may be blind to those faults for the moment, but when you have to sit across the table three hundred and sixty-five mornings out of the year except once in four years you add another morning, when that happens, my friends, morning after morning, year after year, you begin to see, "Oh, was he like that when I married him?" "Was she like that when I married her? Why didn't I see it?" Why indeed?

Now listen. If you have love, real love, true love, you can weather the storm and go on through to a glorious anchor in the harbor of success in married life. But listen, if selfishness is all you know, just as selfishness led you to rebel against the parental yoke, it will lead you to rebel against the yoke of marriage. And just as selfishness led you to break away from the parental yoke, and say, "I am going to get out where I am not under this yoke," that same selfishness will lead you to break up the home because you want to have your own way and can't endure that one that gets in your road all the while.

Do you see, friends? Do you see why one-third of all the marriages in America end in the divorce courts? And do you see why most of the other two-thirds are really unhappy? They never passed their preparatory work. They grew up spoiled children, disobedient, unlovely and unlovable, and unloving. God help us, friends. How is He ever going to take this generation and out of it develop a 144,000 that keep the commandments of God, and remember, all the law is fulfilled in one word. What is it? Thou shalt love.

How is He going to do it? Well, here is the good news, friends. Whether you are three years old, or nine, or 15, or 25, or 60, whatever your age, you can begin tonight with the First Commandment. Right where you are, my friends, you can fall on your knees and say, "Lord, I see that what I need is love. And I see that often I have made a failure in trying to love others. Oh, I wish I had loved my parents better. God forgive me and help me to make it right with them. Help me to begin tonight to do it."

And we who are married. Ah, dear husbands do you really love your wife? You wives, do you really love your husbands? Do you? Oh, God knows when we look in the mirror of His law how short we come. But I say, children, adults, whoever we are, the thing to do is to get back to the beginning and say, "Dear Father, help me to love You with all the heart."

Now tomorrow, the Lord willing, I am going to study further with you how to do that. But for tonight I think we have it clear that our Heavenly Father wants us to begin at the beginning and that is to give Him all our love. And if you don't have very much, all the more reason for giving Him all you have, friends. If all you have got is a teaspoonful, give Him that. Give Him all the love you have, and then let Him direct you as to where to pass it out and how.

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