

LABOR OF LOVE

NEW LIFE WITH CHRIST | AN INSPIRING LOOK AT COLOSSIANS

Four Places We Find Life

“You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” *Acts 20:35b*

1. Eternal life
2. Relationship with God
3. Relationship with others
4. A new way of life / Living in the kingdom

Two lives, Two loves

How do we love God back?

Obeying Jesus’ Commands

John 14:21-24 Jesus said, “Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me...Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching...Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching...” NIV

Carrying out commands

1 John 5:2-3 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. NIV

Obedience / loving people

2 John 2:5-6 And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. ⁶ And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love. NIV

Not loving the world

1 John 5:3-4 In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. NIV

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. NIV

Loving others

1 John 4:11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. NIV

When you love somebody, you do things for them.

1 John 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. NIV

The followers of Jesus are known by their labors of love.

Colossians 4:7 Tychicus will give you a full report about how I am getting along. He is a beloved brother and faithful helper who serves with me in the Lord's work. NLT

Colossians 4:10 Aristarchus... sends you his greetings, and so does Mark... ¹¹ Jesus (the one we call Justus) also sends his greetings. These are the only Jewish believers among my co-workers; they are working with me here for the Kingdom of God. And what a comfort they have been! NLT

Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, a member of your own fellowship and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings. He always prays earnestly for you, asking God to make you strong and perfect, fully confident that you are following the whole will of God. NLT

Colossians 1:7 You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ's faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf. NLT

Colossians 4:17 And say to Archippus, "Be sure to carry out the ministry the Lord gave you." NLT

When you do things for someone you love, it brings you joy and life.

(When you do it out of obligation or duty, it may feel more like discouragement and death.)

Colossians 1:10 Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit [NIV: bearing fruit in every good work]. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. NLT

Colossians 1:28-29 So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ. ²⁹ That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me. NLT

Colossians 3:23 Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. NLT

Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters. NLT