



**“The Driving Force of
Discipleship”**

Matthew 5:43-47

Setting: Sermon on the Mount

“His love” is agape love – “unconditional”

First objective for a new disciple is being transformed into a loving person! (Mt. 22)

* love God

* love neighbor as yourself

Fruit of the Spirit – first! : LOVE! (Gal. 5:22)

The Supreme Role of Love in Christian Discipleship

“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, **I am only a ringing gong or a clanging cymbal**. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have absolute faith so as to move mountains, but have not love, **I am nothing**. If I give all I possess to the poor and exult in the surrender of my body, but have not love, **I gain nothing**” (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

Love: The Foundation For Discipleship (1 Corinthians 13:13)

“And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love; but the greatest of these is love”

Faith: “love...believes all things” (vs. 7)

Hope: “love...hopes all things...” (vs. 7)

Love: “the greatest of these” (vs. 13)

Loves Largest “Test” – Your Enemies!

“Love them; pray for them” (Mt. 6:44)

“Even God causes sun, rain to both the righteous and unrighteous” (Mt. 6:45)

Vs. 46 – “even unsaved people love one another”

God's Love Meets You Where You Are!

You can't earn it or deserve it!

Can't stop it, because it is eternal!

The FORCE of love feeds discipleship by bridging-building with others!

On the search / lookout – human needs

God's Love Always Desires The Best!

Jesus' example: "loving an enemy"

**Wants sin OUT; holiness IN! (Mt. 6:47)
and His call to holiness!**

**"Hark the Herald Angels Sing" (last verse)
"Adam's likeness now efface;
stamp Thine image in its place"**

God's Love Fashions Teamwork in Discipleship (1 Cor. 13:4-8)

“Patient” “kind” “not jealous”

“does not brag and is not arrogant”

“does not act unbecomingly”

“does not seek its own”

“is not provoked”

“does not take into account a wrong suffered”

“does not rejoice in unrighteousness”

“rejoices in the truth”

Love is What Propels...

Ministries in the church family
(worship, teaching, serving, encouraging)

Marriage (with a spouse's glaring
deficiencies in focus)

Parenting (at wit's end!)

When you hit "walls" in life, answer with
"faith, hope, and love..."

The Driving Force of Kingdom Work: LOVE!

**You must be born again to get it
Spirit-filled to exercise it
Tempered by it to be effective!**

**“By this all men will know that you
are My disciples, by your love for one
another (John 13:35).**