

**March 23, 2023**

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

**1 John 5:2 *This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out His commands.* (NIV)**

“If you find it hard to love others, then go back to the source of all love: God Himself.” When you experience His love, it will compel you to love others as well. It will not depend on how you feel about someone else; it will depend on the fact that God loves you because that is who He is! Then, and only then, can you give that love away to everyone!

Again, this is a “cause and effect” statement made by John. The love of God is so rich and so real to those who know it that it can’t help but manifest itself through the things we do—and this includes carrying out God’s commands.

I used to think that God’s commands were a list of things I really “needed” to do. It somehow would check off the boxes of obedience and somehow show God that I loved Him a lot. It’s kind of laughable to imagine that I could show God anything. He already knows everything. John is saying that we don’t obey God’s commands so that we can receive His love since we have already been given of His love freely). We obey God’s commands because He loves us so much, and we show our love back by being who He asks us to be. We love one another. We love because He first loved us. Therefore, carrying out His commands is not a chore or burdensome; it is done because we experience His love, and it changes our hearts and our minds and our wills. As John says, we can know that we love others by carrying out His commands. This is cause and effect.

**Dear Father, I know by experience that You love me. I am reminded continually of Your love for me. I thank You so much that You love with no limits. Help me love others in the same way. In Jesus’s name, Amen.**