

a super tough question...

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Matthew 22:34-40

³⁴Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

a super tough question...

Matthew 22:34-40

³⁷Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’
³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Hope



Love

Peace

Peace

Hope:

An eager expectation of a good outcome.



Love:

The Beatles said it's all you need



Two types of love:

Two types of love:

Godward Love

Two types of love:

Godward Love

Neighbor Love

Godward Love

Luke 9:52-56

⁵²And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; ⁵³but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?” ⁵⁵But Jesus turned and rebuked them, ⁵⁶and they went to another village.

Godward Love

John 13:20-25

²⁰“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”

²¹When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me.” ²²The disciples began looking at one another, at a loss to know of which one He was speaking. ²³There was reclining on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. ²⁴So Simon Peter gestured to him, and said to him, “Tell us who it is of whom He is speaking.” ²⁵He, leaning back thus on Jesus’ bosom, said to Him, “Lord, who is it?”

Godward Love

1. The love for God begins with God's love for us!

Godward Love

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1 John 4:7-21

⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.



“There is nothing you can do to
make God love you more!
There is nothing you can do to
make God love you less!
His love is Unconditional,
Impartial,
Everlasting,
Infinite...
Perfect!”

~ Richard C. Halverson, former Chaplain to the
United States Senate

Godward Love

2. The opposite of fear is not courage, but love!

Godward Love

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1 John 4:7-21

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. ¹⁷In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. ¹⁸There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

Godward Love

3. The love for God is manifest in how we treat others

Godward Love

3. The love for God is manifest in how we treat others

1 John 4:7-21

¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. ²¹And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Neighbor Love

Neighbor Love

1. The Primacy of Love

Neighbor Love

1. The Primacy of Love

1 Corinthians 13

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing

Neighbor Love

2. The Profile of Love

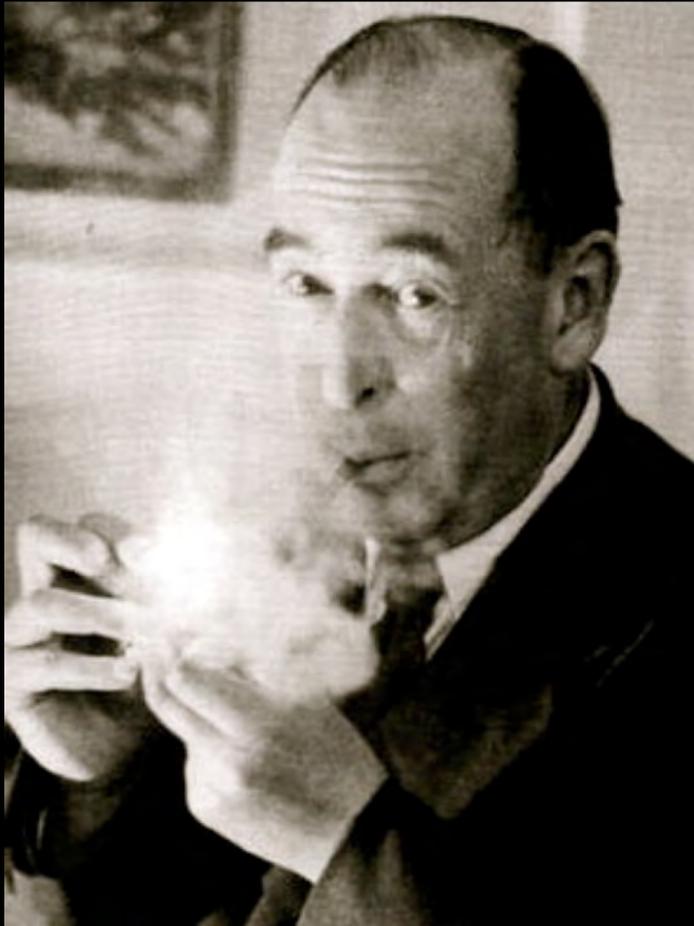
Neighbor Love

2. The Profile of Love

1 Corinthians 13

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

To love at all is to be venerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies



and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin or your selfishness. But in that casket--safe, dark, motionless, airless--it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable...The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers...of love is Hell.

~ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1960, p.169.

Neighbor Love

3. The Permanence of Love

Neighbor Love

3. The Permanence of Love

1 Corinthians 13

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. ¹²Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. ¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Penma & Teller



2
MAGICAL
FELLERS



“I don’t respect people who don’t proselytize. If you believe that there’s a heaven and hell, and people could be going to hell, and you think, ‘Well, it’s not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward’ ...How much do you have to hate somebody not to proselytize?”

~ Penn Jillette, of *Penn and Teller*



Neighbor Love

4. The Amazing Power of Love.

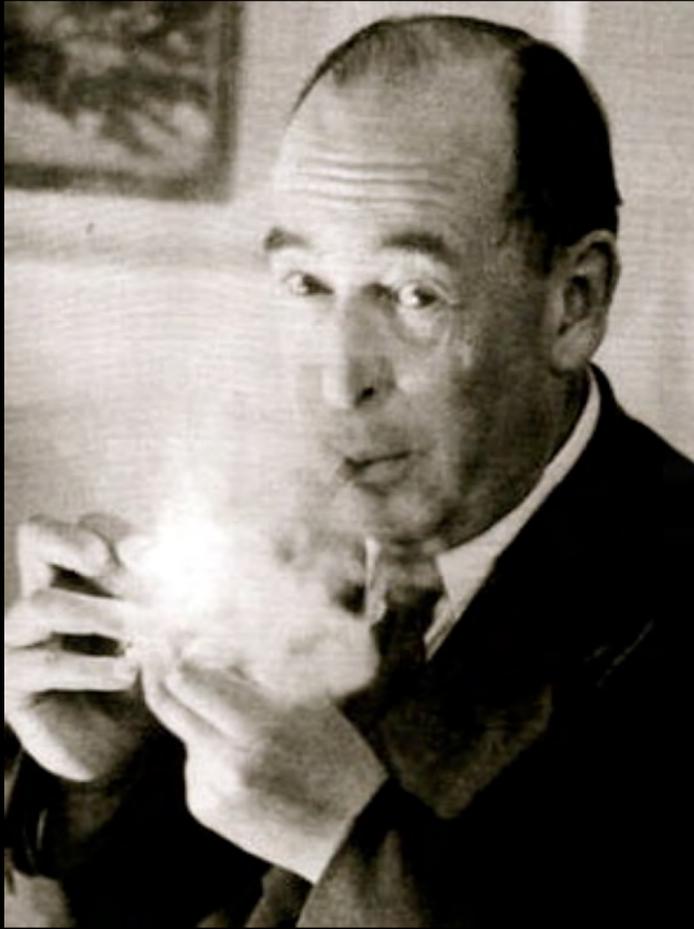
Neighbor Love

4. The Amazing Power of Love

1 Peter 4:7-8

⁷The end of all things is near.

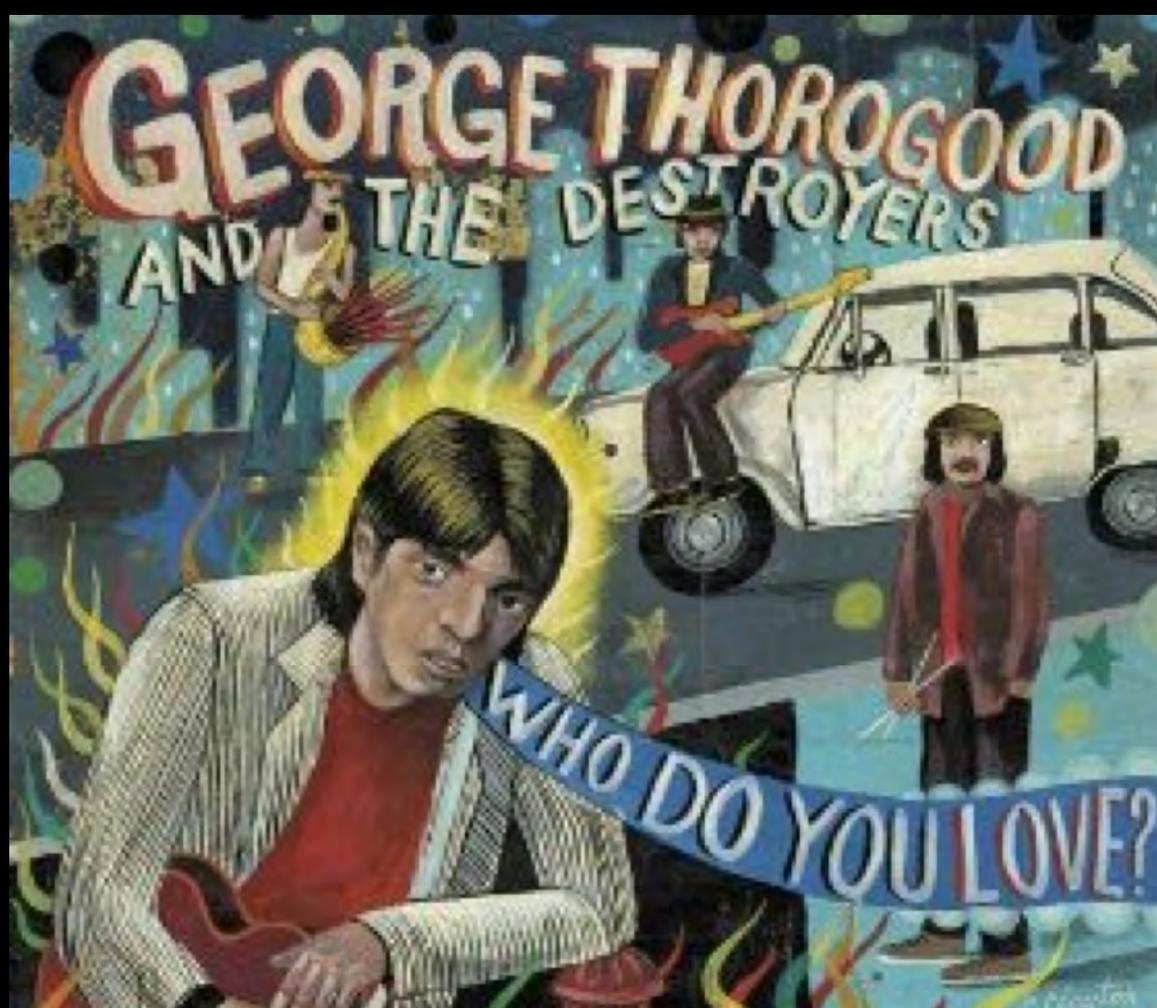
Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. ⁸Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.



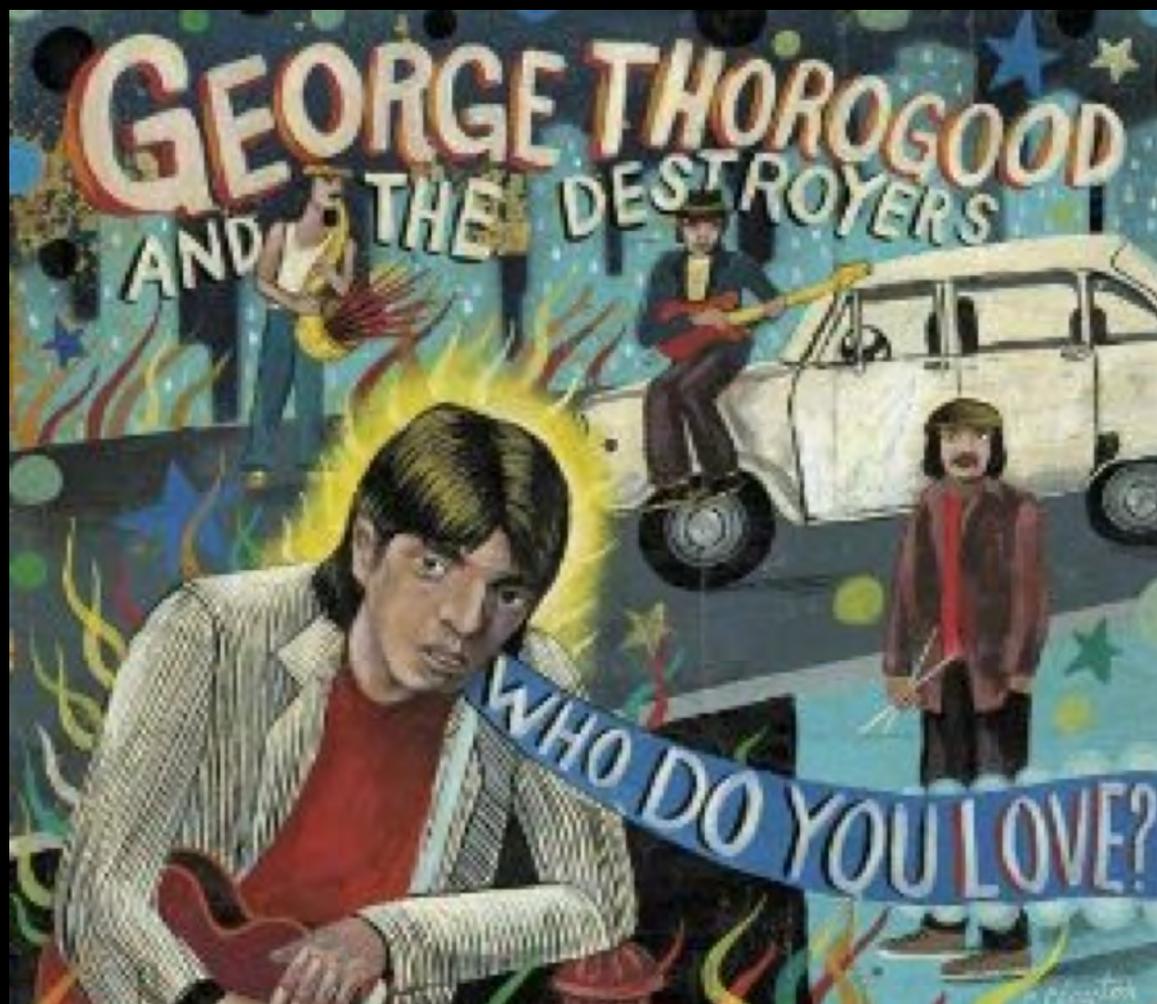
“Do not waste your time bothering whether you ‘love’ your neighbor -- act as if you did. As soon as we do this, we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less.”

~ C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*





God?



God?
Neighbor?