

# The Binding Power of Divine Love

by Clement of Rome

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*The sermon emphasizes the power and importance of divine love in uniting us to God, canceling our sins, and pleasing Him.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 32:1, 1 Corinthians 13:4, Ephesians 1:4, Hebrews 11:5, 1 Peter 4:8, 1 John 5:3

**Topics:** "Divine Love", "Sanctification"

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## Description

Clement of Rome emphasizes the profound impact of divine love in keeping God's commandments, highlighting its unmatched power to unite us with God, forgive sins, and endure all things patiently. Love, beyond human expression, sanctifies God's chosen ones and is essential for pleasing Him. Those perfected in love throughout generations dwell among the saints and will be revealed in Christ's kingdom. By seeking God's mercy, we can possess a love that transcends human biases and reproach, leading to harmony, obedience, and the remission of sins.

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## Transcript

Let the man truly possessed by the love of Christ keep his commandments. Who can express the binding power of divine love? Who can find words for the splendour of its beauty? Beyond all description are the heights to which it lifts us. Love unites us to God; it cancels innumerable sins, has no limits to its endurance, bears everything patiently. Love is neither servile nor arrogant. It does not provoke schisms or form cliques, but always acts in harmony with others. By it all God's chosen ones have been sanctified; without it, it is impossible to please him. Out of love the Lord took us to himself; because he loved us and it was God's will, our Lord Jesus Christ gave his life's blood for us - he gave his body for our body, his soul for our soul.

See then, beloved, what a great and wonderful thing love is, and how inexpressible its perfection. Who are worthy to possess it unless God makes them so? To him therefore we must turn, begging of his mercy that there may be found in us a love free from human partiality and beyond reproach. Every generation from Adam's time to ours has passed away; but those who by God's grace were made perfect in love have a dwelling now among the saints, and when at last the kingdom of Christ appears, they will be revealed. Take shelter in your rooms for a little while, says Scripture, until my wrath subsides. Then I will remember the good days, and will raise you from your graves.

Happy are we, beloved, if love enables us to live in harmony and in the observance of God's commandments, for then it will also gain for us the remission of our sins. Scripture pronounces happy

those whose transgressions are pardoned, whose sins are forgiven. Happy the man, it says, to whom the Lord imputes no fault, on whose lips there is no guile. This is the blessing given those whom God has chosen through Jesus Christ our Lord. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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