

## How Does Love *FULFILL* God's Law?

Speaking of *agape* love, Paul explained that “love is the *fulfillment* of the **law**” (Rom. 13:10). And he also stated that God's “law is **spiritual**” (Rom. 7:14). So, God's law is spiritual, and it is fulfilled BY spiritual love---agape love.

Yes, to fulfill a *spiritual* law, it requires *spiritual* love. It requires agape love---God's *own* love. Agape love is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22). And the only way that a person can *have* God's love, is by having God's Spirit dwelling within him. So, it is only by having the Holy Spirit dwelling within you, that you *can* fulfill God's spiritual law. And this makes perfect sense, when we realize that God's spiritual law is a law OF love! Yes, it takes love---God's own love---agape love---to fulfill God's *law* of love.

Unless a person has the Spirit of God dwelling in him, he is **not subject to** God's law! (Rom. 8: 7-9). But if a person comes to *have* God's Spirit dwelling within him, he then *has* God's own agape love; and **BY** that spiritual love, he can fulfill God's *law of love*!

God's entire spiritual law can be summed up in the one word “love.” This “love” can be divided into the two Great Commandments of the law---“love toward God” and “love toward fellowman” (Matt. 22:36-40). Then, these two Great Commandments are *further* divided into the Ten Commandments---which themselves are further magnified *throughout* the Bible, especially in the New Testament.

Yes, as Jesus Christ stated, “**ALL** the Law” hangs on the two overall commandments to *love* God and to *love* fellowman (Matt. 22:36-40). The first four of the Ten Commandments show the basics of *how* to love God. The last six show the basics of *how* to love fellowman.

The **way** of “love” is not left to the *interpretation* of each human being. “God **is** love” (I John 4:8), and He *knows* the way of love (Isa. 55:8-9)---the way that *leads* to every good thing in life. God's *love* runs down the channel or “riverbed” **of** His Ten Commandments. Therefore, if any particular action is *contrary* to God's Ten Commandments, then what is being expressed is **not** Godly love!

Notice the following scriptures where “love” and “commandment-keeping” are *linked together*---and even *equalized*:

“For this **is** the *love* of God, that we keep His *commandments*” (I John 5:3).

“This **is** *love*, that we walk according to His *commandments*” (II John 6).

“And because **lawlessness** will abound, the **love** of many will grow cold” (Matt. 24:12).

“He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His *commandments*, is a liar, and the truth

is not in him. But whoever **keeps** His word, truly the **love** of God is perfected in him”  
(I John 2:4-5).

“He who has My commandments and *keeps them*, it is he who *loves Me*” (John 14:21).

Yes, the Bible plainly shows that love and commandment-keeping are linked together, and even equalized. In fact, how could it be otherwise, when we consider that God’s *law* is the very **reflection** of His love and His character?!

Consequently, those who say we don’t need to obey God’s *law*, are actually teaching *against* love!

It is only by having God’s Spirit within you, that you *can* live by not only the “letter of the law,” but *also* by its spirit and intent. Furthermore, God’s Spirit within you is actually *Christ* living *His* life in you (Gal. 2:20; Rom. 8:9-10). And to the extent that you *yield* to Christ’s guidance, He will live, in you, the **same** manner of life that He lived 2,000 years ago---a life of agape love---a life of **obedience** to God’s spiritual law!

“Love” is the way that God lives...and it’s the way He commands **us** to live. And in telling us how to live, God gives us **laws** which He commands us to live by. Yes, love---agape love---*fulfills* God’s law (Rom. 13:10); and the *reason* that love fulfills it, is because God’s law is a law OF love. It is a law which *reveals* how to *express* true, Godly love. And in order for you to keep God’s spiritual law in its *spirit and intent*, you must have God’s *own* agape love within you---which you can have *only by* having God’s Holy Spirit dwelling within you!

### Notes:

1. For a further discussion on Romans 13, verses 8 and 10, see the article “Does ‘Love’ REPLACE God’s Law?”
2. For more on the subject of “fulfilling the law,” see the article “How Did Christ ‘FULFILL’ the Law?”