

# THE *Spirit of Life*

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## **Love Your Neighbor as Yourself**

*Treat others the way you would want to be treated; love your neighbor as yourself.* Only a born again person can keep this commandment. Only someone who has received Christ by being crucified with Him, putting off the old man and his desires and being buried with Him in baptism, dead to this world, can keep this commandment.

The devil tempts us through the lusts of the flesh and the lust for the things of this world. If we die to the flesh and the world, Satan no longer has power over us. So reckon yourself dead and free from sin.

Those brothers who willingly walk in the flesh, following its desires, and who still love this world, will always be a burden to, and at odds with, those who walk in the spirit, those who have crucified their flesh and themselves to this world. When given the command to love their neighbor, they will only be able to do so if it doesn't interfere with what their flesh wants. They still love their life and their worldly possessions. They are free to love their neighbor only if it doesn't interfere with their plans, their possessions, their comfort, or their standing in the community. In trying to fulfill the command to love, they won't be able to do the things they want to do.

The flesh will war against the spirit. Those who walk in the flesh desire to do good but cannot carry it out. When someone messes with their stuff, they react in the flesh. The spiritual man is no longer of this world. He is free to love his neighbor, not worrying about the cost because he has heavenly treasure and an immortal body awaiting him.