**RISE UP** in 2021

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**GO B.I.G.**

**BIG LOVE**



*So now* ***faith****,* ***hope****, and* ***love*** *abide, these three; but* ***the greatest of these is love.*** 1 Corinthians 13:13

How good are you at **showing** love?

How good are you at showing love to the **unlovely**?

Can you be a **follower** of Jesus and **not** be loving?

Honest Love, Hard Love, Practical Love, Impossible Love

*Our greatest fear should not be of* ***failure*** *but of* ***succeeding*** *at things in life* ***that don't really matter****.* Francis Chan

When it comes to a BIG God, there is nothing bigger than His **love**.

*For* ***God so loved the world****, that he* ***gave his only Son****, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that* ***the world might be saved*** *through him.* John 3:16–17

The natural **impact** of love is more **love**.

*And it is my prayer that* ***your love may abound*** *more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the* ***fruit of righteousness*** *that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.* Philippians 1:9–11

*Beloved,* ***let us love one another****, for* ***love is from God****, and* ***whoever loves*** *has been born of God and knows God.* ***Anyone who does not love does not know God****, because* ***God is******love****. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.* 1 John 4:7–9

***In this is love****, not that we have loved God but that* ***he loved us*** *and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved,* ***if God so loved us, we also ought to******love one another****. … if we love one another, God abides in us and* ***his love is perfected in us****.* 1 John 4:10–12

And when it comes to **following** Christ, there is no bigger challenge than to **love**.

*… You shall love the* ***Lord your God*** *with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall* ***love your neighbor as yourself****. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.* Matthew 22:37–40

*Above all,* ***keep loving one another*** *earnestly, since* ***love covers a multitude of sins****.* 1 Peter 4:8

**You and I are called to live a life of BIG Love!**

**BIG Love** is better **shown** than **spoken**.

It is better experienced than proclaimed.

*Love is* ***patient*** *and* ***kind****; love* ***does not envy*** *or* ***boast****; it is* ***not arrogant*** *or* ***rude****. It* ***does not insist on its own way****; it is* ***not irritable*** *or* ***resentful****; it* ***does not rejoice at wrongdoing****, but* ***rejoices with the truth****. Love* ***bears all things****,* ***believes all things****,* ***hopes all things****,* ***endures all things****.* ***Love never ends****.* 1 Corinthians 13:4–8

*Whoever loves much, does much.*

Thomas a' Kempis.

*Love is worthless* ***unless it acts out****, unless it’s* ***expressed*** *in* ***deed*** *and* ***behavior****.* Dr. David Jeremiah

*Love is not only something you feel,* ***it is something you do****.* David Wilkerson

**BIG Love** is **unconditional** love.

*but* ***God shows his love for us*** *in that while* ***we were still sinners****,* ***Christ died for us****.* Romans 5:8

*There is nothing you can to do 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.

***We instinctively tend to limit for whom we exert ourselves.*** *We do it for people like us, and for people whom we like. Jesus will have none of that. By depicting a Samaritan helping a Jew, Jesus could not have found a more forceful way to say that* ***anyone at all in need*** *- regardless of race, politics, class, and religion -* ***is your neighbor****. Not everyone is your brother or sister in faith, but everyone is your neighbor, and* ***you must love your neighbor****.* Timothy Keller

**BIG Love** is **equal** opportunity love.

*If anyone says, “****I love God****,” and* ***hates his brother****, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.* 1 John 4:20–21

*You will never really love until you love someone who hates you.* Jack Hyles

*You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall* ***love your neighbor*** *and* ***hate your enemy****.’ But I say to you****, Love your enemies*** *and* ***pray for those who persecute you****.* Matthew 5:43–44

*God teaches us to love by putting some* ***unlovely people around us****. It takes no character to love people who are lovely and loving to you.* Rick Warren

*To love someone means to see him as God intended him.* Fyodor Dostoevsky

**BIG Love** is the **fruit** of our faith.

*But the* ***fruit of the Spirit is LOVE****, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.* Galatians 5:22–23

**BIG Love** is a the **real** thing.

***Let love be genuine.*** *Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.* ***Love one another*** *with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. … Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.* Romans 12:9–16

**Something to think about …**

The best use of life is **love**.

The best expression of love is **time**.

The best time to love is **now**.

*Never procrastinate in showing love. Don’t delay. Don’t put it off. Do it now.* Rick Warren