

# The Work of Love

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## Introduction

In this lesson, let us consider the commands Christ gave to Simon Peter: “Tend My Lambs” and “Shepherd My Sheep” (John 21:15-17).

*John 21:15-17 ... 15 So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “**Tend My lambs.**” 16 He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “**Shepherd My sheep.**” 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “**Tend My sheep.**” (NASB95)*

Genuine love must be active (1 Thess. 1:2-10; Heb. 6:9-12).

*1 Thessalonians 1:2-10 ... 2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; 3 constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, 4 knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you; 5 for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. 9 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come. (NASB95)*

*Hebrews 6:9-12 ... 9 But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way. 10 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (NASB95)*

## Tend My Lambs

The Greek verb *boskō*, translated “*tend My lambs*,” occurring 9x in the NT, is used actively of herders who tend to the needs of animals, and passively, of livestock that is tended.

- Thomas defines βόσκω [*boskō*] as “to feed” [1006].
- BDAG say it means “(1) to tend to the needs of animals, herd, tend, of herders; (2) to feed on herbage, graze, feed, used passively, of livestock.”

This word occurs 9x in the NT (Matt. 8:30, 33; Mark 5:11, 14; Luke 8:32, 34; 15:15; John 21:15, 17).

*Matthew 8:30 ... 30 Now there was a herd of many swine **\*feeding** at a distance from them. (NASB95)*

*Matthew 8:33 ... 33 The **\*herdsmen** ran away, and went to the city and reported everything, including what had happened to the demoniacs. (NASB95)*

*Mark 5:11 ... 11 Now there was a large herd of swine **\*feeding** nearby on the mountain. (NASB95)*

*Mark 5:14 ... 14 Their **\*herdsmen** ran away and reported it in the city and in the country. And the people came to see what it was that had happened. (NASB95)*

*Luke 8:32 ... 32 Now there was a herd of many swine **\*feeding** there on the mountain; and the demons implored Him to permit them to enter the swine. And He gave them permission. (NASB95)*

*Luke 8:34 ... 34 When the **\*herdsmen** saw what had happened, they ran away and reported it in the city and out in the country. (NASB95)*

*Luke 15:15 ... 15 “So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to **\*feed** swine. (NASB95)*

*John 21:15 ... 15 So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “**\*Tend My lambs.**” (NASB95)*

*John 21:17 ... 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “**\*Tend My sheep.** (NASB95)*

Coming into the country of the Gadarenes, Jesus healed the demon-possessed man. He allowed the demons to enter a herd of swine, which rushed down a steep bank and perished in the waters. This word occurs in all three synoptic accounts, describing both the herd of swine, and their herdsman (Matt. 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39).

*Matthew 8:28-34 ... 28 When He came to the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, two men who were demon-possessed met Him as they were coming out of the tombs. They were so extremely violent that no one could pass by that way. 29 And they cried out, saying, "What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" 30 Now there was a herd of many swine **\*feeding** at a distance from them. 31 The demons began to entreat Him, saying, "If You are going to cast us out, send us into the herd of swine." 32 And He said to them, "Go!" And they came out and went into the swine, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the waters. 33 The **\*herdsmen** ran away, and went to the city and reported everything, including what had happened to the demoniacs. 34 And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they implored Him to leave their region. (NASB95)*

*Mark 5:1-20 ... 1 They came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gerasenes. 2 When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him, 3 and he had his dwelling among the tombs. And no one was able to bind him anymore, even with a chain; 4 because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him and the shackles broken in pieces, and no one was strong enough to subdue him. 5 Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and gashing himself with stones. 6 Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him; 7 and shouting with a loud voice, he said, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!" 8 For He had been saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" 9 And He was asking him, "What is your name?" And he said to Him, "My name is Legion; for we are many." 10 And he began to implore Him earnestly not to send them out of the country. 11 Now there was a large herd of swine **\*feeding** nearby on the mountain. 12 The demons implored Him, saying, "Send us into the swine so that we may enter them." 13 Jesus gave them permission. And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand of them; and they were drowned in the sea. 14 Their **\*herdsmen** ran away and reported it in the city and in the country. And the people came to see what it was that had happened. 15 They came to Jesus and observed the man who had been demon-possessed sitting down, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the "legion"; and they became frightened. 16 Those who had seen it described to them how it had happened to the demon-possessed man, and all about the swine. 17 And they began to implore Him to leave their region. 18 As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was imploring Him that he might accompany Him. 19 And He did not let him, but He said to him, "Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you." 20 And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed. (NASB95)*

*Luke 8:26-39 ... 26 Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. 27 And when He came out onto the land, He was met by a man from the city who was possessed with demons; and who had not put on any clothing for a long time, and was not living in a house, but in the tombs. 28 Seeing Jesus, he cried out and fell before Him, and said in a loud voice, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of*

*the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me.” 29 For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had seized him many times; and he was bound with chains and shackles and kept under guard, and yet he would break his bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert. 30 And Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. 31 They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss. 32 Now there was a herd of many swine **\*feeding** there on the mountain; and the demons implored Him to permit them to enter the swine. And He gave them permission. 33 And the demons came out of the man and entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. 34 When the **\*herdsmen** saw what had happened, they ran away and reported it in the city and out in the country. 35 The people went out to see what had happened; and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting down at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they became frightened. 36 Those who had seen it reported to them how the man who was demon-possessed had been made well. 37 And all the people of the country of the Gerasenes and the surrounding district asked Him to leave them, for they were gripped with great fear; and He got into a boat and returned. 38 But the man from whom the demons had gone out was begging Him that he might accompany Him; but He sent him away, saying, 39 “Return to your house and describe what great things God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him. (NASB95)*

After the prodigal son went into a distant country and squandered his estate in loose living, he hired himself out to a local citizen, and was sent into the fields to feed swine (Luke 15:11-24). Indeed, the way of transgressors is hard (Prov. 13:15; Jer. 2:19; Rom. 6:21).

*Luke 15:11-24 ... 11 And He said, “A man had two sons. 12 “The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.’ So he divided his wealth between them. 13 “And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. 14 “Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. 15 “So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to **\*feed** swine. 16 “And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him. 17 “But when he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! 18 ‘I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.” ’ 20 “So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21 “And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22 “But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; 23 and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24 for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’ And they began to celebrate. (NASB95)*

*Proverbs 13:15 ... 15 Good understanding produces favor, But the way of the treacherous is hard. (NASB95)*

*Proverbs 13:15 ... 15 Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard. (KJV)*

*Jeremiah 2:19 ... 19 “Your own wickedness will correct you, And your apostasies will reprove you; Know therefore and see that it is evil and bitter For you to forsake the Lord your God, And the dread of Me is not in you,” declares the Lord God of hosts. (NASB95)*

*Romans 6:21 ... 21 Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. (NASB95)*

Restoring Simon Peter to his apostleship, Jesus Christ commanded him to “Tend My lambs” (John 21:15, 17).

*John 21:15 ... 15 So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “\***Tend My lambs.**” (NASB95)*

*John 21:17 ... 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “\***Tend My sheep.** (NASB95)*

## **Shepherd My Sheep**

The Greek verb *poimainō*, translated “*shepherd My sheep*,” occurring 11x in the NT, means to act as a shepherd of sheep, or figuratively, to watch out for other people, to lead, guide, or rule, to protect, care for, or nurture.

- Thomas defines ποιμαίνω [poimainō] as from *poimēn* [a shepherd], meaning “to act as a shepherd” [4165].
- BDAG say it means “(1) to serve as tender of sheep, herd, tend, (lead to) pasture; (2) to watch out for other people, to shepherd, of activity that protects, rules, governs, fosters, fig. ext. of 1: (a) in the sense of lead, guide, or rule... (b) protect, care for, nurture.”

This word occurs 11x in the NT (Matt. 2:6; Luke 17:7; John 21:16; Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 9:7; 1 Pet. 5:2; Jude 12; Rev. 2:27; 7:17; 12:5; 19:15).

*Matthew 2:6 ... 6 ‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, Are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; For out of you shall come forth a Ruler Who will \***shepherd My people Israel.**’ ” (NASB95)*

*Luke 17:7 ... 7 “Which of you, having a slave plowing or \***tending \*sheep**, will say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come immediately and sit down to eat’? (NASB95)*

*John 21:16 ... 16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "\*Shepherd My sheep." (NASB95)*

*Acts 20:28 ... 28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to \*shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (NASB95)*

*1 Corinthians 9:7 ... 7 Who at any time serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit of it? Or who \*tends a flock and does not use the milk of the flock? (NASB95)*

*1 Peter 5:2 ... 2 \*shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; (NASB95)*

*Jude 12 ... 12 These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, \*caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; (NASB95)*

*Revelation 2:27 ... 27 and he shall \*rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from My Father; (NASB95)*

*Revelation 7:17 ... 17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their \*shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes." (NASB95)*

*Revelation 12:5 ... 5 And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to \*rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. (NASB95)*

*Revelation 19:15 ... 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will \*rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. (NASB95)*

The work of shepherding, well known in Bible times, communicates various spiritual truths (Luke 17:7-10; 1 Cor. 9:3-7).

*Luke 17:7-10 ... 7 "Which of you, having a slave plowing or \*tending \*sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come immediately and sit down to eat'? 8 "But will he not say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat, and properly clothe yourself and serve me while I eat and drink; and afterward you may eat and drink'? 9 "He does not thank the slave because he did the things which were commanded, does he? 10 "So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.' " (NASB95)*

*1 Corinthians 9:3-7 ... 3 My defense to those who examine me is this: 4 Do we not have a right to eat and drink? 5 Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as*

*the rest of the apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? 6 Or do only Barnabas and I not have a right to refrain from working? 7 Who at any time serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit of it? Or who **\*tends** a flock and does not use the milk of the flock? (NASB95)*

Jesus Christ shepherds His people (Matt. 2:1-6; cf. Mic. 5:2-4; Rev. 7:16-17; 12:5-6; 19:11-16).

*Matthew 2:1-6 ... 1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 2 “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: 6 ‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, Are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; For out of you shall come forth a Ruler Who will **\*shepherd** My people Israel.’ ” (NASB95)*

*Micah 5:2-4 ... 2 “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.” 3 Therefore He will give them up until the time When she who is in labor has borne a child. Then the remainder of His brethren Will return to the sons of Israel. 4 And He will arise and shepherd His flock In the strength of the Lord, In the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they will remain, Because at that time He will be great To the ends of the earth. (NASB95)*

*Revelation 7:16-17 ... 16 “They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their **\*shepherd**, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.” (NASB95)*

*Revelation 12:5-6 ... 5 And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to **\*rule** all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. 6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days. (NASB95)*

*Revelation 19:11-16 ... 11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will **\*rule** them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” (NASB95)*

Elders shepherd the local congregations of which they are members (Acts 20:25-35; 1 Pet. 5:1-3).

*Acts 20:25-35 ... 25 “And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. 26 “Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 “For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. 28 “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to **\*shepherd** the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 “I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 “Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. 32 “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33 “I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or clothes. 34 “You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me. 35 “In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ” (NASB95)*

*1 Peter 5:1-3 ... 1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, 2 **\*shepherd** the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. (NASB95)*

Simon Peter performed this work, both as an apostle and as an elder (John 21:16; 1 Pet. 5:1-3).

*John 21:16 ... 16 He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, **\*Shepherd** My sheep.” (NASB95)*

*1 Peter 5:1-3 ... 1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, 2 **\*shepherd** the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. (NASB95)*

Failing utterly in this regard, false teachers care only for themselves (Jude 8-13).

*Jude 8-13 ... 8 Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties. 9 But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!” 10 But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by*

*instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed. 11 Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. 12 These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, \*caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; 13 wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever. (NASB95)*

In heaven, victorious saints share in the rule and reign of Jesus Christ (Rev. 2:26-28; cf. Psa. 2:7-9; Matt. 19:27-28; 2 Tim. 2:11-13)

*Revelation 2:26-28 ... 26 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; 27 and he shall \*rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from My Father; 28 and I will give him the morning star. (NASB95)*

*Psalms 2:7-9 ... 7 "I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 8 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession. 9 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.' " (NASB95)*

*Matthew 19:27-28 ... 27 Then Peter said to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?" 28 And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (NASB95)*

*2 Timothy 2:11-13 ... 11 It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; 12 If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself. (NASB95)*

## **Conclusion**

“Tend My Lambs” and “Shepherd My Sheep” are serious responsibilities, involving hard work, having application to the apostolic office, the oversight of elders, the work of parents, teachers, etc.

We demonstrate our love for Christ by keeping his commandments (John 14:15, 21, 23; 1 John 2:3-5; 5:3).

*John 14:15 ... 15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. (NASB95)*

*John 14:21 ... 21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." (NASB95)*

*John 14:23 ... 23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. (NASB95)*

*1 John 2:3-5 ... 3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: (NASB95)*

*1 John 5:3 ... 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. (NASB95)*

We demonstrate our love for Christ by serving one another (John 21:15-17).

*John 21:15-17 ... 15 So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs." 16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "\*Shepherd My sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep. (NASB95)*