

[NEW BELIEVER'S]

Bible Study #17

LOVE

In the last lesson, we learned that brotherly kindness is part of godly living. Now we will explore the topic of love more fully. Love is a word that we use quite often. "I love my wife," "I love my dog," "I love Mexican food." We certainly do not love all these three things equally! But love is the word we use for all these feelings.

There are three different words in Greek for love. *Eros* focuses on sexual desires (lust); *phileo* focuses on brotherly friendship; and *agape* is used to express a deep, long-suffering, and constant love toward an unworthy object. *Agape* is God's wonderful and unconditional love for us.

Let's begin this study by memorizing 1 John 4:16:

AND WE HAVE KNOWN AND BELIEVED THE LOVE THAT GOD HAS FOR US. GOD IS LOVE, AND HE WHO ABIDES IN LOVE ABIDES IN GOD, AND GOD IN HIM.

God is love. All that God does is an expression of His love. Love is not just one of His attributes, it is His very nature.

In this lesson, you will learn about God's love for His people and our love for each other and for God.

Please use your own words as you answer these questions. Do not simply copy the verses.

1. What do these verses tell us about God's love?

(Ephesians 2:4) _____

(Jeremiah 31:3) _____

(Jonah 4:2) _____

(Hebrews 12:6) _____

2. We read in the Old Testament that the Israelites were a disobedient people, yet God delivered them from the bondage of Egypt? Why?

(Deuteronomy 4:37) _____

We see that God's deep affection and love is given as a reason for God's choice of Israel to be his people. It is His own sovereign will to love us. Read 2 Timothy 1:9.

3. Who is the object of God's love?

(John 3:35) _____

(John 6:27 & 2 Thessalonians 2:16) _____

(John 3:16 and Titus 3:4) _____

The love of God is personal and intimate. He doesn't love populations. He loves us individually.

4. Can anything separate us from the love of God?

(Romans 8:35-39) _____

5. Does the love of God ever change?

(James 1:17) _____

6. Read John 3:16, 15:13, and 1 John 3:16, 4:10. According to those verses, what is the greatest love of all?

Love is the key to understanding Jesus' willingness to die on the cross for us.

7. How does God demonstrate His love for us?

(Romans 5:8) _____

What was there in us that attracted the love of God? Nothing! He died while we were still sinners. Jesus' loving sacrifice was not made for friends, but for enemies.

8. Why do we love God?

(1 John 4:19) _____

Christ did not die in order to make God love us, but because He did love us.

9. How are we to love God?

(Matthew 22:37) _____

Our love for God is to be total, involving our entire being. Loving God is the key that opens the door to our ability to love one another.

10. What will those who love God receive?

(James 1:12) _____

(James 2:5) _____

11. How will people know you are a disciple of Christ?

(John 13:35) _____

12. Read John 14:15 and 1 John 2:3–5. Through what do we show our love toward God?

13. Write out 1 Corinthians 13:4–8 in the space below:

Prophecies will fail, tongues will cease, knowledge will pass away, but love never fails. Love transforms our desires, our ideas, our values, our relationships, and our very selves.

14. According to 1 John 4:18, how do we overcome fear?

15. How is our love increased toward one another?

(1 Thessalonians 3:12) _____

We cannot love on our own. It is impossible. We do not really have the ability to love until we come to Christ. Until the Holy Spirit has control of our lives, we do not have the power to love. For more on this, read Romans 5:5.

16. What does the Bible tell us about those who love the things of the world?

(1 John 2:15) _____

“Things of the world” does not mean the world of people, or the created world, but the world or realm of sin, which is controlled by Satan and organized against God and righteousness.

17. Is your love in the world or is your love in the Lord?

From memory, write out your memory verse from page 1.

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