

Bible Study #14

LOVE

LOVE is a word that is used quite often in the English language: “I love my wife”, “I love my dog”, I love Mexican food.” In no way do we love all three equally as much, but as loosely as the word is used, one would start to wonder.

There are three different words in Greek used 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 towards an unworthy object. Agape is God's wonderful and unconditional love for us.

Begin 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.” - 1 John 4:16

“God is love.” This is not a definition, but rather it is a fact; all that God does is an expression of His love. Love is not just one of His attributes, but it is His very nature.

1. What do the following scriptures tell us about God's love?

Ephesians 2:4 _____

Jeremiah 31:3 _____

Jonah 4:2 _____

Hosea 14:4 _____

Hebrews 12:6 _____

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

Deuteronomy 4:37 _____

We see that God's deep affection and love is given as the reason He chooses Israel. The only reason that God loves anyone is found in His sovereign will. Read **2 Timothy 1:9**

3. To whom do the following Scriptures reveal the objects of God's love.

John 3:35 _____

John 16:27 & 2 Thessalonians 2:16 _____

John 3:16 & Titus 3:4 _____

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

Romans 8:35-39 _____

5. According to **James 1:17**, does the love of God ever change? _____

6. Read **John 3:16, 15:3**, and **1 John 3:16, 4:10**. What is the greatest love of all? _____

Love is the key to understanding why Jesus was willing 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' 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 God already loved us.

9. How are we to love God?

Matthew 22:37 _____

10. What will those who love God receive?

James 1:12 _____

James 2:5 _____

11. What is the distinguishing mark of being 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. Fill in the blanks of **1 Corinthians 13:4-8** (NKJV). If you have a different translation, write out these verses on a separate sheet of paper.

“Love _____ and is _____; love does not _____; love does not _____, is not _____; does not _____, does not _____, is not _____, thinks no _____; does not _____, but rejoices _____; _____ all things, _____ all things, _____ all things, _____ all things. Love _____.

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? _____
