

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 It is rich in mercy.

Jeremiah 31:3 It is everlasting.

Jonah 4:2 He is abundant in lovingkindness.

Hosea 14:4 He loves freely

Hebrews 12:6 The Lord disciplines those that He loves.

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 Because He loved them.

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 The Father loves the Son.

John 16:27 & 2 Thessalonians 2:16 The Father loves those who loves His Son.

John 3:16 & Titus 3:4 God loves all mankind so much that He gave His son as a sacrifice for all mankind.

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

Romans 8:35-39 No.

5. According to **James 1:17**, does the love of God ever change? No.

6. Read **John 3:16, 15:3**, and **1 John 3:16, 4:10**. What is the greatest love of all? The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for our sins.

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 While we were still sinners Christ died for us.

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 Because He first loved us.

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 With all your heart, and with all your strength, and with all your mind.

10. What will those who love God receive?

James 1:12 The crown of life.

James 2:5 To be heirs of the kingdom.

11. What is the distinguishing mark of being a disciple of Christ?

John 13:35 Love

12. Read **John 14:15** and **1 John 2:3-5**. Through what do we show our love toward God? By keeping His commandments.

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 suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

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? Perfect love.

15. How is our love increased toward one another?

1 Thessalonians 3:12 By the Lord.

On our own, we cannot love the way God loves. It is impossible. No one has the ability to love this way until they really come to Christ. Until the Holy Spirit has control of our lives, we do not have the power to love as God loves. **Read Romans 5:5.**

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

1 John 2:15 The Fathers love is not in those who love the world.

The world of people, or the created world, lies under the sway of the wicked one. See **1 John 5:19.**

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

From memory, write out your memory verse from the beginning of the Bible study.

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