

Biblical Love

Lesson 20

Memorize (Select One) –

- ✓ Galatians 5:22 & 23 – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
- ✓ I John 4:10 – In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation of our sins.

In our society, love is spoken of as something you feel. It is seen as an emotion or an attraction. People speak of “falling in” and “falling out” of love. In this sense it is something that overtakes us or happens to us like how Thumper feverishly pounded his foot the first time he laid his eyes on Flower. (He was suddenly twitterpated).

The Bible speaks of love in far more active terms as an act of obedience; as a supreme virtue; as a sacrificial commitment toward another, even an enemy. Above all, love is self-giving for the good of others. “For God so loved the world that He _____ His only begotten Son....”

I. Love first and foremost is an _____ of God. (I John 4:8b)

God was love before He made any creatures to be the object of His love. He has been a loving God from all eternity.

- ◆ “In this is love, not that we loved God, but _____ (I John 4:10).

II. Love is evidence of Christ’s Disciples.

- ◆ What commandment did Christ give to His men on the night before His death? (John 13:34) _____

- ◆ What will others know when they observe the love His followers have for one another? (John 13:35)

III. Love is evidence of maturity.

According to I Corinthians 13, a Christian who is gifted and growing in many ways but unloving is _____. List the 15 characteristics of love from I Cor. 13:4-7:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

- ◆ Do the above attributes of love put more emphasis upon action or feelings?

- ◆ Does obedience to Jesus command in Matt. 5:44 emphasize action or feelings? _____.
- ◆ Does the command of Eph. 5:25 require feelings or action?

Putting 1 Cor. 13 to Action

- *I am patient with you because I love you and want to forgive you.*
- *I am kind to you because I love you and want to help you.*
- *I do not envy your possessions or your gifts because I love you and want you to have the best.*
- *I do not boast about my attainments because I love you and want to hear about yours.*
- *I am not proud because I love you and want to esteem you before myself.*
- *I am not rude because I love you and care about your feelings.*
- *I am not self-seeking because I love you and want to meet your needs.*
- *I am not easily angered by you because I love you and want to overlook your offenses.*
- *I do not keep a record of your wrongs because I love you, and “love covers a multitude of sins”.*

IV. Growing in Love

- A.** Fill in the missing words from 1 Thess. 3:12. “And may the Lord cause you to _____ and _____ in love for one another, and for _____, just as we also do for you;”
- B.** Read Phil. 2:3 & 4. In one word, what is the Christian’s greatest hindrance to growth in love? _____. Based upon Phil. 2:3 & 4, one definition of love could be expressed as putting others before _____.
- C.** According to 1 John 2:11, another hindrance to growth in love is _____.
- D.** Growing in one’s love for God, for others and for the lost will be hindered when love is misplaced for the _____. (1 John 2:15)

- E.** Growth in love flows out of the incredible truth that God demonstrated His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ _____. (Romans 5:8)

“Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?” – Charles Wesley

Definition of Love

“Love is the self-sacrificial commitment for the well being of the one loved.” – J. Boyer

“A selfless and enduring commitment of the will to care about and benefit another person by righteousness, truthful and compassionate thoughts, words and actions.” – S. Scott

“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.” – John 15:13

Think on It:

- 1. How is selfish lust a poor substitute for biblical love?**
- 2. When a Christian husband or wife says, “I just don’t love you anymore,” what do they misunderstand about love?**
- 3. In what way(s) will your words help you to be a loving person?**
- 4. Why will a loving person be a good forgiver?**