

Love Lesson 2

I. Love

- A. The first manifestation of “the fruit of the Spirit” enumerated by Paul is “love.”
- B. Love is the highest of all qualities.
 - 1. “God is love.” (1 Jn. 4:8).
 - 2. Love motivated God send His Son to die for man. (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8).
 - 3. Love is to be in the Christian above all else. (Col. 3:14).

COL 3:14 And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

- 4. It is the badge of our discipleship. (Jn. 13:34,35).

JOH 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

- 5. It is the greatest of all gifts. (1 Cor. 12:31; 13:13).

1CO 12:31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.	1CO 13:13 But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.
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- 6. It is the quality that **binds** everything else together in perfect unity.
 - a. See Col. 3:14 - “which is the perfect bond of unity”
 - b. COL 3:14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. NIV
 - c. “which is the bond that unites everything together in complete harmony.” McCord
- 7. This is a quality that a Christian must **follow, pursue, seek, desire, develop, and nurture**.

II. Love defined.

- A. It is not just a feeling or some mushy sentimentality.
- B. It is seeking the good of others. (1 Cor. 13:4).
- C This love can be commanded - emotions cannot.
- D. We can even love enemies with this love. (Matt. 5:43-48).

MAT 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.'

MAT 5:44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, and **pray for** those who persecute you

MAT 5:45 in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

MAT 5:46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same?"

MAT 5:47 "And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?"

MAT 5:48 "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

1. Love for enemies is defined as praying for them.
2. It is doing good to them, and not evil. See Rom. 12:18-21.

III. The Holy Spirit Produces Love

A. Those led by the Spirit will have love for God and man. (Matt. 22:37-40).

MAT 22:37 And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." 38 "This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

1. In reply to the lawyer's question, Jesus said love for God was the great commandment of the law.
2. Read Deut. 6:4-9.

DEU 6:4 "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! 5 "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 "And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart;7 and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. 8 "And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 9 "And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

3. Not only did the law teach the Jew to love God, it taught him to teach his children to love God.
4. It is very important today that Christian parents teach their children to love God.

B. This can be done in several ways.

1. Personal example - Children imitate and follow parents.
2. Telling them of God's great love and goodness. See 1 Jn. 4:19.
3. Family devotions and Bible reading
4. Involvement of parents and children - seeing God's love at work.

IV. What are some ways we can show love for God?

- A. **Study the word** (Psa. 1:2; 2 Tim. 2:15). Read Psa. 119:1-176.
- B. **Worship God** (Acts 2:42, 46; 5:42).

<p>ACT 2:42 And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.</p>	<p>ACT 2:46 And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,</p>	<p>ACT 5:42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.</p>
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C. **Obey God** (1 Jn. 5:3; Jn. 14:15, 23-24; 2 Jn. 6).

D. **Not loving the world** (Rom. 12:2; Jas. 4:4; 1 Jn. 2:15).

ROM 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.	JAM 4:4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.	1JO 2:15 Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. Lit. "Stop loving the world"
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E. **Trust God**

1. Love and trust go together.
2. **It is very difficult to love someone if you do not trust him.**
 - a. We keep trust by being faithful in our words and actions.
 - b. Once trust is broken love weakens, and can be destroyed.
3. The scriptures encourage us to trust God. (Psa. 27:14; 37:25; 23:1-2; 46:1; Matt. 6:25-33; Rom. 8:28).

F. **Put God first** (Matt. 6:33).

1. Most people put many things before God - job, ball games, pleasing husband or wife, etc.
2. God is not deceived. (Gal. 6:7; Heb. 4:13).

GAL 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

HEB 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

3. He knows if He is first. He knows how important He is to us.
4. Putting God first involves every area of our lives.

G. **Giving to God** (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:7).

1. God has done so much for us. (Jas. 1:17). Read Psalm 100
2. We can do nothing for God, but we show love for Him by helping His children and by helping others. (Gal. 6:10).

H. **Love brother** (1 Jn. 4:20, 21).

1JO 4:20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

V. **What Are Some Of The Ways We Are To Show Love For Man?**

A. **Teach the lost** (Matt. 28:19,20; Eph. 4:15).

1. Our love must be genuine. (Rom. 12:9).
2. Others can detect insincere or fake love.
3. Loving the lost is letting them know they are lost, but also letting them know that God loves them and wants them to be saved. (Jn. 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9).

B. Help the needy (Gal. 6:10; Jas. 1:27; 2:14-17; 1 Jn. 3:17,18; Matt. 25:41-46).

1. Examples of early Christians. (Acts 2:44,45; 2 Cor. 8:1-4).
2. **Some ways we can help needy.**
 - a. Food & clothing
 - b. Shelter
 - c. Take children into home or help others take care of them. (Jas. 1:27).
 - d. Education - teach to fish, how to look for a job, job skills, how to handle money
 - e. Encourage - build self-esteem. Some have lost all their self-esteem and sense of worth.

C. Restore the fallen brother. (Gal 6:1; Jas. 5:19,20).

1. This is not always an easy job.
2. Many Christians resist the effort to restore them.
3. We cannot restore all, but many can be restored especially if we do not wait until their hearts become seared with sin.

D. Help one another bear burdens. (Gal. 6:2).

1. The words "you who are spiritual" is a reference to those being led by the Holy Spirit. See Gal. 5:16.
2. Yes, we must give God our burdens. (Psa. 55:22; 1 Pet. 5:7).
3. Christians are still called upon to help one another with their struggles.
4. All reach a point, without the help of others, they cannot bear their burdens alone.

E. Encourage one another (Heb. 3:13).

HEB 3:13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

1. In person
2. Cards, letters and telephone
3. Actions

F. Giving up ones liberty (1 Cor. 8:1-11).

1. We have freedom to do some things that may be harmful to others.
2. Paul insists we should be willing to give up non-commanded things for the sake of others.

3. We must not use our freedom to destroy others for whom Christ died.

1CO 8:11 For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died.

G. **Read** 1 Corinthians 13.

1. Discuss Paul definition of "love."

2. Read 1 Corinthians 13 substituting the word "Christian" for the word "love" in verses 4-7.

1CO 13:4 The **Christian** is patient, the **Christian** is kind, and is not jealous; the **Christian** does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

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