

15. 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 the 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 toward an unworthy object. Agape is God’s wonderful and unconditional love for us.

Begin memorizing 1 John 4:16 (NKJV)

“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’. 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 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 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. The only reason that God loves any is found in His own sovereign will. Read II Timothy 1:9.

3. To whom do the following scriptures reveal the objects of God’s love?

John 3:35 _____

John 16:27 and II Thes. 2:16 _____

John 3:16 and Titus 3:4 _____

The love of God is personal and intimate. He doesn't love populations, He loves people.

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, 15:13, and 1 John 3:16, 4:10. 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' sacrifice was not made for friends, but for enemies.

8. Why do we love God? 1 John 4:19

9. How are we to love God? Matthew 22:37

Our love 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. What is the distinguishing mark of being a disciple of Christ? John 13:35

12. Read John 14:15, 1 John 2:3-5. Through what do we show our love for God?

13. Fill in the blanks of 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NKJV). If you have a different version, write out these verses on separate piece 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?

15. How is our love increased toward one another? 1 Thes. 3:12

We cannot love as God would have us to, on our own. It is impossible. No one has the ability to love this way until he really comes 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 _____

Not 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? _____

Write out your memory verse:

Christianity best reflects Christ when Christians grow in love and live out the love that is the one unquestionable mark of Christ's presence among His people.

Remember: The world might hate us, but God will always love us. May God bless you as you continue your walk with Him.

If you have any questions or things you would like us to pray about, please let us know.



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