

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS

LESSON 10

SHOWING GOD'S LOVE

There seems to be more talk about love today than at any other time since men have been upon the earth. We hear it in music. We hear it over the radio. We hear it on the streets. Young people are trying to practice love, and yet they cannot find it. It is said that love is the greatest power in the world.

1. KINDS OF LOVE

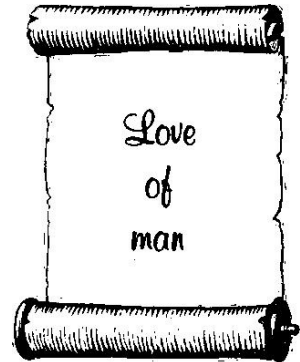
There are three kinds of love. These three are the love of man, the love of the world, and the love of God.

A. Love of man

- **Sexual love.**

Sexual love is caused by the two sexes being drawn together. It works much upon the way we feel toward each other. We see this where men and women get together. Sexual love is necessary for bringing children into the world.

When sexual love is used in the right way, it is wonderful. But many times it is not used right. When it is not used right, there are many sorrows and problems. Actually, when sexual love is not used right, it soon turns into hatred and bitterness. The reason why sexual love is not used right is because of sin that is in the heart of man. Man is selfish and he wants everything for himself. He also wants love just for himself. This kind of love, sexual love, is only to be used after we are married, Hebrews 13:4; Ephesians 5:5.



- **Family love.**

Family love is the way we love our relatives. God has put within us a desire to love and to be loved. In our own family we first learn to know what love is. The little baby feels the loving arms of his mother. A mother has much love for her child, Isaiah 49:15. As the child grows, he will show love to those who love him. It is very sad when a child has to grow up in a family where there is no love. The mother and father who truly love each other have a happy family. The children in that family will love each other, Matthew 7:9-11. They will know how to love those who are outside the family.

- **Love for friends.**

How should we love our friends? Proverbs 17:17

If a person really loves his friend, what will he be willing to do for him? John 15:13

How does Jesus command us to love others? John 15:12

Paul loved Titus. Read 2 Corinthians 2:13. How do we know he loved him?

A friend loves at all times and is willing to give his life for another. Christ commands us to love others like He loves us. Paul showed he loved Titus because he was concerned for him. What are the three parts of the love of man?

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B. Love of the world.

What three things come from the world? 1 John 2:16

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The love of the world is very much like the love of man, only it is more selfish. The love of the world wants everything for "me" - "I want lots of money. I want the best things for myself. I want people to like me more than others. I want to satisfy my sexual desires. I do not care what happens to others."

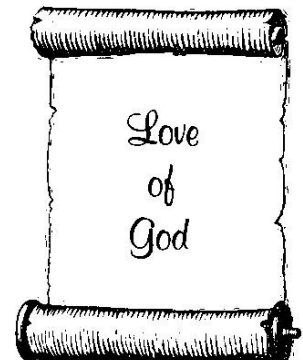
It is easy to see that if we love these things, we cannot love God at the same time.

What does 1 John 2:15 tell us about the things of the world?

C. Love of God.

There is a kind of love that only God can give. We are not born with this kind of love. We see God's love in John 3:16.

Because God loved us, what did He do?



How did God show His love for us?

Revelation 1:5

1 John 4:10

Do you see the main truth about God's love? What is it?

God's love is a love that gives. It is not selfish.

As we study this lesson, we will be talking about God's love and not about the love of the world or the love of man.

What is the greatest power in the world?

What are the three kinds of love?

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2. COMMAND TO LOVE

What is the greatest commandment? Mark 12:29,30

From whom do we learn to love? Ephesians 5:1,2

What is Jesus' commandment to us in John 15:12?

What kind of love did Jesus have for us?

Who commands us to love?

3. WHAT LOVE IS LIKE

(Notice: in the "King James" version of the Bible, the word "charity" means "love.")

Read 1 Corinthians 13. This chapter tells what love is and what love is not. Read it carefully.

Write down eight things about love.

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Is it enough to say, "We have love," and do nothing about it? 1 John 4:20

Is it possible to do good things and still not have love? 1 Corinthians 13

What does this chapter say about doing good things without love?

What is love like?

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4. WHO GIVES US LOVE

Notice Paul's prayer for the Christians at Ephesus, Ephesians 3:17-19. This would be a good prayer for us to pray for our fellow Christians. We have seen that the love of God does not come from us. It must come from Someone else.

From Whom does this love come? Romans 5:5 and Galatians 5:22

Read 1 John 4:16. When God lives in us we have His love in our daily life.

Who gives us love?

5. HOW LOVE WORKS

A. Love is strong.

We said earlier that "love is the greatest power in the world." We can see how strong love is by what it does. Many years ago there was a great ruler. His kingdom was the whole world. He defeated his enemies with his strong army. Yet he knew there was a greater power than his army. He said, "Jesus Christ brought many people into His kingdom by love. Even today millions of men would die for Him because they love Him."

B. Love helps.

Love helps neighbors, lazy people, enemies and Christians.

- **Love helps neighbors.**

The kind of love which does things for others can change the lives of the hardest people. If we live our life to help other people, we can often bring them to the Saviour. We Christians must always be watching to see what others need. We should be ready to help them even if it may cost us something or is hard to do. See Luke 10:25-27.

- **Love helps lazy people.**

We must remember that there are some people who will try to get us to do everything for them. We will never help these people if we do everything for them. We help them when we show them how they can help themselves. You may have a person living next to you who is strong and well. He may come and ask you for wood. If he really needs wood, it is right to give him some. But, if he is too lazy to go and cut his own wood, then you would do wrong in giving it to him.

2 Thessalonians 3:6,10 (N.L.T.) says,

"Now this is what we tell you to do, Christian brothers. In the name of the Lord Jesus, keep away from any Christian who is lazy and who does not do what we taught you. . . When we were with you, we told you that if a man does not work, he should not eat."

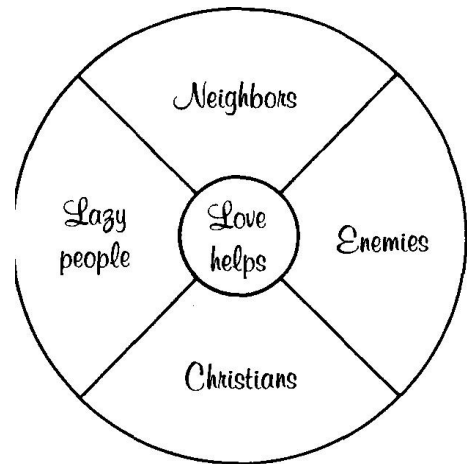
What should we do with lazy Christians? 2 Thessalonians 3:6,10

What does Paul think about taking food from others? 2 Thessalonians 3:8

What does Paul tell those who do not want to work? 2 Thessalonians 3:11,12

Paul did not take food from others. He worked for his own food.

Whom does love help?



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- Enemies.
- Christians.

- **Love helps enemies.**

What should we think about those who do not like the Gospel of Christ? Matthew 5:44-46

According to Ephesians 4:32, what will we do?

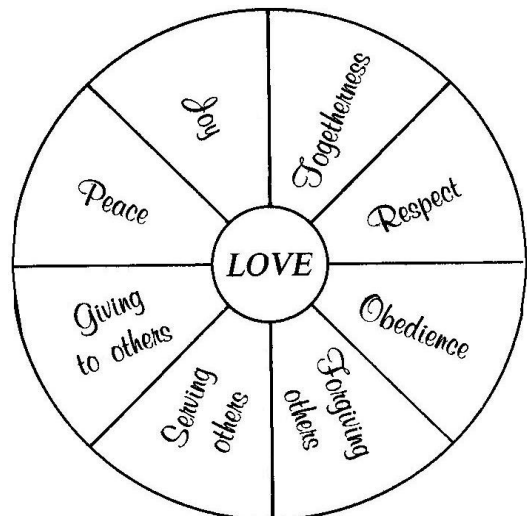
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- **Love helps Christians**

The Christian Church is the strongest when Christians have love for one another. If Christians hate each other and are envious, will sinners think of them as Christians? John 13:35

Satan will try to destroy God's love in us, Romans 16:17-20. Christians should show the love of Christ to each other and to those who are not Christians. If Christians do this, they will be able to change a whole settlement. Do not let Satan keep you from this love.

Whom does love help?

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6. RESULTS OF LOVE

A. Peace.

What does perfect love take away? 1 John 4:18

When fear is gone, we can enjoy the perfect peace of God.

B. Joy.

Even though we cannot see Jesus, we love Him.

What do we have because we love Him? 1 Peter 1:8

C. Togetherness.

Christians love each other. Love will bring Christians together, Colossians 3:14.

D. Respect.

How should we think about other Christians? Romans 12:10

E. Obedience.

If we love Christ, what will we do? John 14:15,23

F. Forgiving others.

Read Matthew 18:21,22. Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive his brother.

What did Jesus answer him? (verse 22)

What are 6 results of love?

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G. Serving others.

If we really love people, will we just talk about it? 1 John 3:18

What should we do?

H. Giving to others.

Write a verse which tells us that God loved us enough to give us His Son.

If we love others, how will we give to them? 2 Corinthians 9:7

What are 8 results of love?

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MEMORY VERSE

Memorize: John 13:34,35.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

1. What is the greatest power in the world?

2. What are the three kinds of love?

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3. What are the three parts of the love of man?

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4. Who commands us to love?

5. What is love like?

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6. Who gives us love?

7. Whom does love help?

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8. What are 8 results of love?

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WORDS TO LEARN

1. charity - love.
2. envious - to want something someone else has.
3. millions - very many.
4. respect - to look up to; good enough to honor.
5. results - that which we get because of something that happened. Example - we study hard and as a result we get good marks.
6. satisfy - to give what is needed; to give what is wanted.
7. selfish - to want everything for ourselves; caring too much for oneself and too little for others.
8. sex - that which makes the difference between man and woman.
9. sexual - that which brings a man and woman together; belonging to sex.
10. togetherness - oneness; to be together; to do things together willingly.

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