

ANSWERS: *Disciple of Christ Study: Lesson 15 Love*

Purpose of study: *Live life as a disciple of Christ and intentionally make disciples for the glory of the triune God. A disciple is a “student” or “follower” who learns, studies, and acts in accordance to the teachings of Christ, the Master.*

Lesson 15: Love (Day One) *Love is More Than a Feeling*

Definitions: Emotion is a natural instinctive state of mind deriving from one's circumstances, mood, or relationships with others. Feeling is an emotional state or reaction. It can also be defined as a belief, especially a vague or irrational one:

Read 1 John 5:3-5 and answer questions 1-3:

This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. 1 John 5:3-5

1. How do we love God (v. 3)?

By obeying His commands.

2. Why do we obey God (v. 3)?

Because we love Him.

3. How do we obey God and overcome the world in victory (v. 4-5)?

Faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.' Acts 13:22

Read Matthew 12:43-45 and answer questions 4-6:

"When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it.⁴⁴ Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order.⁴⁵ Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation." Matthew 12:43-45

4. According to Jesus, what happens when an evil spirit leaves a person but returns sometime later to find the person (house) unoccupied (v. 45)?

Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there.

5. What do you think Jesus means when He says the house (person) is not occupied (v. 44)?

God is not there. Could answer Holy Spirit or Jesus.

From the lesson: The point of the Matthew 12 passage is to determine whether or not God's Spirit is in one's life. If not, there is no protection against harmful invaders. The enemy (evil spirit) can return, and with no divine resistance, set up camp again. The enemy can and will take control of an empty and unprotected soul for his wicked plans.

6. How does Jesus' warning affect (influence) you and the individuals you are discipling?

Personal Answer. But we should take seriously to open our hearts and lives to God.

Read Romans 5:5 and answer questions 7-12:

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. Romans 5:5

7. Who has poured out love into believers' hearts?

God.

8. How does God pour out love into believers' hearts?

By His Holy Spirit.

9. Do you believe God has poured out His love into your heart by the Holy Spirit? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One) Explain your answer:

Personal Answer. CLI Discipler, if any answer but yes, encourage your student's faith and trust in the truth of Scripture. Romans 5:5 is a promise for believers to claim through the New Covenant.

10. Why are you assured of loving God and loving your neighbor?

Because of trust in Jesus and the promise of Romans 5:5. God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

11. How do faith and love work together?

By faith we receive God's love and by faith we are able to love God and others. Romans 5:5 is a faith statement because we must place our confidence in what God has told us in His word. God is love and His love is in our hearts.

12. After you memorize Romans 5:5, write it here:

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. Romans 5:5

Lesson 15: Love (Day Two) *Love other Races*

13. Review your life with the Holy Spirit's help regarding racism. How have you been guilty of avoiding or hurting others because they are of a different race or ethnicity?

Personal Answer. CLI Discipler, your comment should not condemn or judge your student's sins of racism, but neither should you condone or excuse it.

14. Confess your sin of racism and ask Jesus to help you love those of different races or ethnicities.

Yes No (circle One) Explain your answer:

Personal Answer. CLI Discipler, Your comments should encourage confession, forgiveness and the love of others, no matter how different they seem.

15. Why do you think the church remains racially divided?

Read Romans 12:16-17 and answer questions 16-18:

*Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.*¹⁷ *Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.* Romans 12:16-17 (Harmony: peace and like-mindedness.)

16. How are we to live with one another (v. 16)?

In harmony.

17. What should our state of mind be and who should we be willing to associate with (v. 16)?

Our state of mind should be humble or not proud and we should be willing to associate with people of low position.

18. Do we repay evil for evil (v. 17)? Yes **No** (Circle One)

Read Luke 6:27 and answer questions 19-20:

But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Luke 6:27

19. Suppose someone truly despises you because of your race and is your enemy. How are you to treat that person?

We are to love, do good, bless him and pray for the person who despises us.

20. How did our model, Jesus Christ, treat His enemies (Romans 5:7-10)?

Jesus loved His enemies and died for them (us).

Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die.⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!¹⁰ For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Romans 5:7-10

Definition: Genocide is the deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular ethnic group or nation.

Definition: Ethnicity is the fact or state of belonging to a social group that has a common national or cultural tradition.

21. Do you think God is willing to forgive the perpetrators of genocide? **Yes** No (Circle One)
Explain your answer:

In Christ Jesus, God is willing to forgive anyone who repents, no matter how heinous and catastrophic his or her sin may be. It is not the size or magnitude of the sin but the size and magnitude of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. He truly paid it all.

Bible references for # 9:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:2

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened. Jonah 3:10

22. Read Jonah 3:10. Did God forgive the Ninevites when they repented? **Yes** No (Circle One)

But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD, "O LORD, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity." Jonah 4:1-2 (See Exodus 34:6-7)

23. Read Jonah 4:1-2. How does Jonah describe God?

A gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity (disaster, tragedy).

And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation." Exodus 34:6-7

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

24. Read John 3:16. Is God still gracious, compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity? **Yes** No (Circle One)

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. Luke 23:34

25. Read Luke 23:34. What did Jesus say as He was nailed to wooden beams?

Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.

Read Colossians 3:12-14 and answer questions 26-28:

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:12-14

26. As a disciple of Christ, God's chosen, holy and dearly loved, how should you act toward anyone of another race, ethnicity, political group etc. (v.12)?

With compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

27. How should you respond to perpetrators of racial discrimination (v.13)?
(FYI: A perpetrator is a person who carries out a harmful, illegal, or immoral act.)

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

28. What binds all virtues together in perfect unity?

Love.

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (Reconciliation: positive change in relationship)

29. Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-19. What can *you* do to be part of the solution for racial reconciliation and harmony?

Personal Answer. But should include sharing the gospel, which is the message of reconciliation. Prayer, reaching out to other races in love and friendship and trying to understand their feelings on issues of race etc.

Lesson 15: Love (Day Three) *Defining Love*

Read 1 John 4:9-10 and answer questions 30-32:

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:9-10

30. How does God show His love among us (v. 9)?

He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

31. How do *you* allow Jesus to live and love through you?

Personal Answer.

32. What is love (v. 10)?

Love is God sending His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. The New Testament defines God's love through Jesus Christ and His atoning¹ sacrifice on the cross.

¹ "Atonement, meaning reconciliation, was associated with sacrificial offerings to remove the effects of sin and in the New Testament, refers specifically to the reconciliation between God and humanity effected by the death, burial and resurrection of Christ." Holman Dictionary

Citation verses quoted in Lesson 15:

Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak. Mark 14:38

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

33. Read Romans 5:8. How does God show His love for you?

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Malachi 3:6

Read Psalm 52:8-9 and answer questions 34-36:

But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever. ⁹ I will praise you forever for what you have done; in your name I will hope, for your name is good. I will praise you in the presence of your saints. Psalm 52:8-9

34. What does the psalmist trust in (v. 8)?

In God's unfailing love.

35. What does the psalmist hope in (v. 9)?

In God's name.

36. Will you place your trust in God's unfailing love and hope in His name? Yes No (Circle One)
Explain you answer:

Personal Answer. CLI Discipler, If your student answers no, he or she may have a heart problem. You need to take this seriously and prayerfully consider how to help this person's faith and trust in God.

37. Pray: Triune God, May I always trust in Your unfailing love and place my hope in You. No matter what is happening in my life, may I praise You and declare You are good. Amen.

I have prayed: Yes No (Circle One)

Personal Answer.

Lesson 15: Love (Day Four) *Loving Others*

Read 1 John 4:11-13 and answer questions 38-40:

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.¹³ We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 1 John 4:11-13

38. Why should we love one another (v. 11)?

Because God so loved us.

39. How is God's love made complete in us (v. 12)?

If we love one another, God lives in us.

40. How do we know God lives in us (v. 13)?

Because God had given us His Spirit who confirms or testifies that He does live in us.

Also Romans 8:16: *The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.*

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession-- to the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:13-14

41. Have you ever been able to love another with Jesus' kind of sacrificial love? Yes No (Circle One) If yes, please share the story:

Personal Answer.

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 1 John 3:16

42. How do we know what love is according to 1 John 3:16?

Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.

If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:17-18

43. Read 1 John 3:17-18. What are some ways, other than physical death, you can lay down your life?

Putting others' needs above our own by giving money, material goods and time. Although not specifically stated in the verses, there may be other answers, like caring for the sick, helping those in prison etc.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a and answer questions 44-46:

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.⁸ Love never fails. 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a

44. Why is love patient (v. 4)?

Personal Answer. We want the student to really think about this definition of love. Here is one thought: Love is patient because it is not concerned with self and one's own schedule, plans getting its own way.

Definition: A patient person able to remain calm and not become annoyed when waiting for a long time or when dealing with problems or difficult people.

45. Why is love not rude (v. 5)?

Personal Answer. Again, here is one thought: Love is not rude because it respects the rights and feelings of others. It does not put itself first, but loves its neighbor as itself.

Definition: Rude is not having or showing concern or respect for the rights and feelings of other people: not polite.

46. Why do *you* not delight in evil but rejoice with the truth (v. 6)?

Personal Answer. But should include the fact that Jesus has washed our sins away and made it possible to not delight in evil but rejoice in the truth. Jesus is truth and He is love.

Paul gives us a practical description of love in 1 Corinthians 13. He makes it easy to grasp how love is to be played out in every day circumstances. Yes, it is easy to understand, but not so easy to do. We must rely on the Holy Spirit so our love never fails.

Lesson 15: Love (Day Five) *Love is Elementary*

Read Matthew 22:37-40 and answer questions 47-51:

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."
Matthew 22:37-40 (Neighbor could be anyone: See Luke 10:29-37)

47. According to the first and greatest commandment, how are you to love God?

With all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

48. What does it mean to love God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind?

Personal Answer. Here is one answer: Our whole lives or beings are passionately dedicated to serving God and doing His will.

49. How can *you* increase your love for God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

Personal Answer. Here is one answer: Fervently pray and ask God for the grace to love Him more. Read the Bible, obey and seek His will.

50. According to the second great commandment, how do you love others?

Love your neighbor as yourself.

51. How can *you* increase your love for other people?

Personal Answer. Here is one answer: Fervently pray and ask God for the grace to love others more. Read the Bible and obey commands to help others and put their needs before your own.

Read Ephesians 3:16-21 and answer questions 52-56:

I pray that out of his glorious riches he (God) may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:16-21

52. How should you be rooted and established (v. 17)?

In love.

53. The apostle Paul is praying for his readers to have power, together with all the saints to grasp (seize) and understand what (v. 18)?

To grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.

54. When believers know and take hold of the magnitude of Christ' love, what happens (v. 19)?

Believers are filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

55. Why do Christ's disciples have hope of being filled with the fullness of God (v. 20)?

Because God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

56. Are you praying this prayer for your students or learners? Yes No (Circle One)? If not, will you begin praying for them now Yes No (Circle One)?

Personal Answer.

57. How does William Wilberforce's life encourage you to keep going and not give up?

Personal Answer.

58. Do you think people can tell you are a Christian by your love? Yes No (Circle One)
Explain your answer:

Personal Answer.

Read Matthew John 13:34 and answer questions 59-62:

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
John 13:34

59. What is the new command that Jesus gave to His disciples?

Love one another.

60. Why is it "new"?

From the lesson: The commandment to love your neighbor is not new (Leviticus 19:18), but the extent to which Jesus calls us to love is new. We are to love sacrificially and without restraint, using Jesus' standard of love for us. Christ also makes it clear that our love is not for a select few. He describes our neighbor as everyone, no matter the race, class or ethnicity (Luke 10:33-37).

61. How must disciples love one another?

As Jesus has loved His disciples. As Jesus loves us.

62. How will men and women know that you are Christ's disciple?

If we love one another as Jesus loves us.

Read Ephesians 3:16-21 and answer questions 63-65:

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.⁹ The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself."¹⁰ Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. Romans 13:8-10

63. What does it mean to have a continuing debt to love one another (v. 8)?

We are to always love one another. We never reach a point when the need to love others has been fulfilled. This command to love one another is new every morning.

64. How do we sum up the commandments (v. 9)?

Love your neighbor as yourself.

65. What is the fulfillment of the law (v. 10)?

Love.

But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? Matthew 5:44-46

66. Read Matthew 5:44-46? Why are we considered sons of our heavenly Father when we love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us?

Sons follow in their father's footsteps. God provides good for believers as well as nonbelievers. God the Father sent His Son to prove His love for all people. We are considered sons when we follow Jesus and the pattern set by our Heavenly Father. (Remember women are also sons in Christ Jesus)

---End Lesson 15 Answers and the Disciple of Christ Study---

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