

CLI Leadership Bible Study: Lesson 2

How to positively influence the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ

Lesson 2: Triple Love Poured Out (Day One) *Love, Approval and Tough Times*

In Lesson 1 we learned that Jesus is our leadership model. The instructions or blueprint for following Jesus is the Bible. By following the Bible in spirit and truth and building on the *Cornerstone*, we can become purposeful leaders with God's power released through us.

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."
Matthew 3:17

1. After Jesus was baptized in Matthew 3:17, God the Father said, "This is my _____ whom I _____: with him _____ well _____."

****See end of lesson for repeat of questions and blank spaces for you to write your answers.**
When all the questions have been completed, return your answer sheets to CLI. You may keep this lesson for your own study or review. You may pass it on to another or discard.

God spoke love and encouragement into Jesus' life. Jesus could be confident of His Father's love at this moment in time as well as in the past and in the future. God always loved Jesus and always will. Jesus could rest in God's care and support of Him.

The Greek verb for well pleased is eudokeo (εὐδοκέω, aorist - undefined). The Greek aorist tense is used here to indicate that the time is not defined to a particular moment. In this case God was pleased with Jesus in the past, at the time of His baptism and in the future. The Greek word eudokeo also means to take delight or pleasure in, to think well of and to approve. God's love and approval inspired Jesus' life, ministry, and leadership. God's love and approval should also be the motivating factors in your life, ministry, and leadership.

2. How do *you* think God's love and approval affected Jesus' life and the choices He made?

3. How will being confident of God's love and approval affect how you live and lead others?

God affirmed His love and approval for Jesus at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. God had confidence in Jesus and expected Him to be obedient and to succeed. He took pleasure in His Son and was delighted in Him. Nevertheless, right after God spoke of His love and approval, the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to fast for forty days and forty nights (Matthew 4:1-11). While in a weakened physical state, the devil pursued Him for evil purposes.

4. Do you view times of testing, struggles or pain as a sign of God's love and confidence in you? Y N (Circle One) Explain your answer.

Many times when people face temptation or hardship, they immediately feel that God doesn't love them or care about them. This is far from the truth. Remember that God created man; man did not create God. Have you heard the joke, "God created man in His image and man returned the favor?" We try to understand God according to our frail minds. We try to make God think and act like we do. When He doesn't act according to our ways, we get upset. However, the Bible tells us that our ways are not His ways (Isaiah 55:8-9).

Jesus is perfect. He was also perfect when He took on flesh and walked the face of the earth. He never had to be corrected or disciplined. You and I are not so flawless. We are not always so dutiful and may fail to follow through with God's will and purpose for us. These are times when you and I may experience the Father's discipline. God may be taking us through a rough or difficult time in order to teach us obedience. Recall *To obey is better than sacrifice and to heed is better than the fat of rams* (1 Samuel 15:22). God may use tragic or unhappy circumstances in order to correct, train or instruct in His ways.

Read Proverbs 3:11-12 and Galatians 3:26-29 and answer questions 5-7:

My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke,¹² because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in. Proverbs 3:11-12

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:26-29

5. Whether male or female, how do you become a son of God the Father in whom He delights?

6. Why should we accept the LORD's correction and not become resentful or discouraged?

7. Have you experienced God's correction, rebuke or punishment and how did you handle it?

because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.
Hebrews 12:6

8. According to Hebrews 12:6, the Lord _____ those he _____
and he _____ everyone he _____ as a _____.

When you are going through a difficult time, remember to ask God if you have been disobedient or sinned in some way (Matthew 18:7-9, Psalm 39:11). If you have sinned: confess, repent with godly sorrow, and accept forgiveness in Christ (1 John 1:9). Then move on. Keep the focus on Jesus and not yourself. Self-pity is a sin and morbid (dark) introspection (self-examination) is dangerous to your mental health. If you have not sinned, continue to keep your eyes upon Jesus. He is your source of joy and peace!

You and those you will be leading must look at personal situations through the life of Jesus. He was loved and approved of completely by the Father and yet was placed in a difficult situation in the desert immediately following His baptism. Without any human companionship He was asked to fast and withstand the attacks of a powerful, supernatural adversary.

He faced difficult challenges in life and in death. Don't ever forget that He was asked to take our sins into His body and suffer crucifixion (execution on a cross). He accepted the assignment because He loves the Father and He loves us. Jesus was faultless, blameless and spotless. He had no sins to be rescued from. Remember this when you are asked to complete a difficult assignment or when you are without family, friends or any hint of human kindness. Remember Jesus' forty days in the desert and His death on the cross when you are asked to fast and withstand the attacks of a powerful enemy.

God's love is real. It's active and compelling. It's a force that is exploding around us like spectacular fireworks! We just need to unlock our senses and receive His extraordinary affection.

Sometimes we try to understand God's love according our feeble way of loving but it won't work. God's love is not like our love. Human love is fickle and conditional. It looks on the outer appearance with personal opinions and judgments. Instead of meeting the needs of others, it seeks to have its own needs met.

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

9. Read Romans 5:5. How are we able to love God and love others?

God loves you so much that He wants to spend eternity with you. He raised Jesus from the dead and He now reigns over heaven and earth. We are promised eternal life with our triune God and the gift of reigning with Jesus (2 Timothy 2:11-12, Revelation 20:6).

Personal Application:

Are you going through a rough or difficult season now? Y N (Circle One) If yes, please share how we might pray for you.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 2 Corinthians 4:17

Suggestion: Study Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and memorize verses from these books to keep your focus on Jesus our Lord.

Lesson 2: Triple Love Poured Out (Day Two) *A New Creation*

In day one we looked at Jesus' baptism and temptation in the desert. Notice how God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit were working together. Jesus was identifying with our sin (but had no sin) and our need for repentance by submitting to water baptism, the Holy Spirit descended on Him and God the Father spoke words of love and affirmation (support) over Him. Afterwards the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert in order to be tested or tempted by the devil. God divinely orchestrated these events and all members of the triune God harmoniously participated.

Recall from **Lesson One**, *Building a Leadership Model* that we learned that Jesus is part of the divine mystery that we call the Trinity. There is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. They have a perfect loving and melodious¹ relationship. In fact, they are so perfectly matched that they are one in substance (essence) and being (Colossians 2:9, 1 Corinthians 3:16).

We will never be exactly the same as God in His unique substance and being because there is no one like God. In addition God doesn't change, making it impossible for another to be added to our triune God. However, Jesus wants us to be one with God in the sense of unity. He wants us to be in a loving and harmonious relationship with Him and with each other. He desires to live within us and help us in our connection with God and others. He prayed to the Father regarding believers "that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me" (John 17:22-23).

In order for us to be one with God we must be born again and become new creations. We are physically born into the old order because Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden. They sinned by turning away from God and turning to their own selfish desires. They had free will or free choice to choose. Their selection (pick) gave mankind sin as a legacy (inheritance).

Read 1 Corinthians 15:21 and answer questions 1-3:

For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

1. What did Adam bring into the perfect world that God created? _____
2. In Adam all _____, so in _____ all will be made _____.
3. Why do you think this is important for you to know as a Christian leader?

¹ Melodious (melody) - having the character of beautiful and harmonious music.

Original or inherited sin is a doctrine (belief, principle) of Christianity (Romans 5:12-21). Sin is universal to mankind. It is part of our fallen nature due to Adam and Eve's first sin or rebellion against God. He told them what to do and they disobeyed. They traded in their divine nature for a sinful (fallen) one. Adam and Eve lost their perfect status and morality before God. They had free choice and chose to believe the serpent (Satan) laying in wait for them in the Garden of Eden. This evil one was already in active rebellion against God. He had already fallen from his ideal standing before his Creator.

The Bible is clear that we are conceived in sin (Psalm 51:5) so that before we are even born we have sin. "Adam and Eve being considered as historical persons and all subsequent humanity as their descendants, the consequences of the Fall were held to affect all mankind by inheritance, or even by a theory of 'seminal identity' by which an ancestor's act may involve all his descendants also (Hebrews 7:9)."²

Seminal is a word meaning containing seed or semen. It also means that the seed or semen is a source or a first stage in development. In other words, our character or nature came from Adam. We aren't given the reason for this inheritance (passed on) of our sin nature from Adam and Eve but it is clearly explained to us in the Scriptures (Romans 5:12, 1 Corinthians 15:22).

God did not create sin nor does He cause mankind to sin. He did create the potential for evil in the sense that man has the potential to turn away from God. Our LORD desires His creatures to want His company and love Him freely and not in a forced or compulsory state.

And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." Genesis 2:16-17

4. Read Genesis 2:16-17. What would you say to someone who said it wasn't fair that mankind had to inherit Adam and Eve's sin and pay the price of living in a fallen world?

Jesus Christ proved that God is not only honorable but extremely fair and just to all mankind. Jesus paid the price on the cross for our inherited sin and all the evil things that we have done since we were born. God proved His love for us by sending His Son to die for us (John 3:16).

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
2 Corinthians 5:17

5. According to 2 Corinthians 5:17, are you a new creation? Why or why not?

In summary, we are born into sin and have a sinful nature because Adam ate from the forbidden **tree**. In Christ we are made brand new because Christ was crucified on the **tree** (cross) to pay for the sin of Adam and all subsequent (succeeding) sin. The cross was formed from the wood of a tree and is also referred to as a tree in Scripture (Galatians 3:13, Acts 5:30).

When God the Father draws or attracts a person to Himself, he or she is given the opportunity to eat spiritually of Christ (John 6:44-47, 51-56). By eating spiritually of Christ our inherited sin or

² Cross, F.L., "The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church," Oxford University Press, New York, 1990, p.501.

debt from Adam's eating of the forbidden fruit is cancelled. We are now to eat of the sweet fruit of Jesus, who gives life and sustains life.

However, when God calls or the invitation comes, we must accept it and partake. Those who believe and follow Christ are redeemed, bought back with a price through Jesus, the last Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45, Romans 5:12-21). Those who do not accept Jesus remain dead in their sins and are destined for hell.

6. Why do you, I and other Christians still sin after trusting Jesus as Lord and Savior?

After we are born again in Christ we are a new creation. Our sins are forgiven and we have God's Spirit to lead us in all righteousness. We clearly have the ability to do what is right (Romans 6:11-14) but we continue to sin (1 John 1:8).

God doesn't take away our human nature and our ability to choose good from evil (Romans 6:19). We still have free will and we still have Satan and his followers who prowl around looking for someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8). In our natural body we will always be tempted to put ourselves, our comfort, and our own satisfaction above others. Plus we still live in a fallen and corrupted world which can cause a multitude of problems.

Jesus was tempted in His humanity to turn rocks into bread when He was hungry, to receive His reward early if He worshipped Satan and avoid the cross with its torment and humiliation (Matthew 4:1-11, 26:38-39). Jesus was perfect and withstood every attack and temptation; He never sinned. He always chose God's way.

Jesus lives within the believer and helps us to resist temptation like He did. We need to allow Jesus to take over and work through us (Philippians 4:13). In this way we begin the *process* called sanctification to become more and more like Christ. Sanctification means that we grow in holiness and purity each day (Hebrews 12:14-15, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8).

As a new creation we don't enjoy sin and we don't habitually (consistently) sin but it does happen. We make wrong and sinful choices. However, we should be sinning less and resemble Christ more today than yesterday! The important thing is to recognize that we are on a journey with Christ that will last our whole life and finally be completed at our death.

I was reminded of how Jesus is working through me last Sunday while at church. One of the women on the worship team had her 2-year-old daughter with her. The mother told me after the service that no one was in the nursery for that age group. Well here she was trying to sing with the other members but her little one wouldn't sit still. I noticed the little girl come down off the stage and her mother going after her.

I was prompted by the Holy Spirit to go and take care of the child so her mother could help lead in worship without worry. Immediately I left my place and walked up to the mother and asked if I could help. She said yes and was visibly relieved. I found out the toddler's name and the mother assured me that her daughter would allow me to hold her.

I picked her up and carried her to my seat. During the worship music I held her for awhile and then drew with her. God had outfitted me that morning so I had a notebook with blank pages. This might seem like a natural act and no big deal, Christian or not, but it wasn't for me. Let's

put it this way: I don't feel called to children or youth ministries. Without Jesus I wouldn't have had a problem holding back and letting someone else step forward. But Jesus was working on me. He was moving through me to show His love to this young mother and her child. I was simply involved in God's process of sanctification. He was helping me become more like His Son in caring for others.

7. Are you cooperating with Jesus and His Spirit in the process of your sanctification?

8. How are you helping others in their process of being sanctified?

Each member of the Blessed Trinity was involved in the creation of the world and each is involved with you as a new creation. They are interested in you and in your life. God loves you with a powerful and amazing love. No one comes close to loving you like the Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit!

Now as a new creation you have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). You are righteous and holy before God. This is your legal place or position based on the blood of Christ. You have the ability as a new creation to look upon people, circumstances and situations in an entirely different way. You can lead effectively!

Receiving a New Mind with Different Attitudes and Emotions

Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. John 3:6

9. Read John 3:6. Who gives birth to your spirit?

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. John 6:44

10. Read John 6:44. Jesus says that no one can come to Him (believe & trust in Him) unless the _____ draws (attracts, pulls) him.

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. John 6:51

11. In John 6:51 Jesus says that He is the “ _____ bread that came down from heaven.” If anyone _____ of this _____, he will _____ forever. This _____ is my _____, which I will _____ for the _____ of the world.”

We must have food (bread) in order to physically live. We must have Jesus (spiritual food) to have an abundant (not wasted) life now and eternal life after our body dies. This is an excellent metaphor (symbol: one thing used to represent another). Our spiritual being (consciousness not associated with a physical body) depends wholly and unequivocally (clearly) upon our continuing relationship with Jesus.

What happens if we just eat a few crumbs of bread each day? We may remain alive but we will be unhealthy and have very little energy. It is the same with eating spiritually of Jesus. We must partake of Jesus continually if we are to be healthy in our spirits.

A leader must be strong in his/her spiritual being in order to make an impact on our world. God uses people weak in body but not weak in spirit. He looks for those who are wholly committed to Him. Psalm 34:15 tells us that *The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry.*

God is looking for leaders who are righteous by taking in full and frequent meals of Jesus. He is looking for those who believe they are righteous in Christ and want God to use them for His glory. If you are lacking holy zeal for the Lord simply pray for it. The same thing that James 1:6-8 says about seeking wisdom is true in all holy things we ask for: *But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.*

Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins. The first meal that you share with Jesus is when our spirits (thinking and understanding) believe\trust\place faith in the truth that Jesus in his human form (flesh) was crucified and took your sins into His body. This act was acceptable to God for the punishment you deserve for all of your sins.

Man can make, design and form but only God creates. No one but God can create a universe and no one but God can create a clean heart. Create means to bring into existence that which did not exist before. Prior to Christ in our lives, you and I were totally unclean. All our righteous acts were like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). Our choices may have seemed morally good, but anything done outside of God is self-serving and therefore sin.

12. What are some ways that you are a new creation since becoming a Christian? In other words, what kinds of things do you do and think now that you didn't do and think before?

13. What other kinds of things would you like to see developed in your new heart?

Personal Application:

We have the choice to follow God's ways so that we can grow spiritually or to spurn His grace. Grace is God's free offer to work through us. Take a few minutes and ask Jesus to work in you and develop your character, attitudes and mind so that you continually have a pure and holy heart. Pray Psalm 51:10 to God.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Psalm 51:10

Lesson 2: Triple Love Poured Out (Day Three) *The Love of the Father*

Love is one of those words that we all understand but might have difficulty in defining. We might think of love and its emotional feelings toward the opposite sex. But love is much more. It is the basis of our created world. God created the universe out of love. He created you out of love.

Love is a loyal, dependable, unselfish, generous and caring concern for another. It is also extreme liking, radical devotion and genuine affection. We learned that our triune God has perfect love for each other and now we are going to see that God also loves you perfectly.

The Father loves you.

Jesus loves you.

The Holy Spirit loves you.

Triple love poured out on you!

God is reliable and dependable in His relationship with you. He will never let you down. He is unselfish and generous towards you. He wants what is best for you. God cares deeply about you and is totally interested in all that you do. He never misses any special events in your life but is always there cheering you on and helping you succeed in life. In addition, He is always by your side when everyone else has left and abandoned you. Even if you don't feel or see His presence, He is working on your behalf to make things right. He brings perfect peace and joy into your life. God is eternally giving. He always delights in giving you good gifts. Plus He really, really likes you, is radically devoted to you, and has genuine affection for you.

The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness. Jeremiah 31:3

1. In Jeremiah 31:3, the LORD was speaking to Israel but it also applies to His people today. The LORD says: "I have _____ you with and an _____ love; I have _____ you with _____ - _____."

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. 1 John 4:16a

2. 1 John 4:16a tell us that "we _____ and _____ on the _____ God has for us. God is _____."

Don't doubt God's love for you. The Bible tells us that we can know, understand, and recognize with certainty that God loves us. The Word also says that we can rely, depend, and trust on the love that God has for us. His love won't fail; it is unfailing. Do not look at circumstances to determine God's love for you; look directly to Him.

When we think of God's attributes such as His power and wisdom, we are overwhelmed at how small our strength and intellect is in comparison to His. God is all-powerful and all-wise. In the same way, God's love is so amazing that we have a difficult time comprehending (understanding) its magnitude (size). God is all-loving.

3. Why do you think a leader needs to know and rely on God's love?

4. Have you considered how much your Heavenly Father loves you? Yes No (Circle One)

Read 1 John 3:1 and answer questions 5-6:

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

1 John 3:1

5. How do we know that God the Father loves us?

6. Why would God the Father want us in His famous and unparalleled (supreme) family?

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

7. Read John 3:16. What is the greatest proof (evidence) of God's love for you?

The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17

8. Read Zephaniah 3:17. Who takes great delight in you, calms all your fears, and sings celebration songs over you?

9. Is God with you sometimes, most of the time or always? (Circle One)

But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever. Psalm 52:8

Olive trees were valuable for their strong wood, oil and of course olives. God gave the trees to bless mankind and animals with shelter, safety and food. In Psalm 52 David compares himself to an olive tree thriving in the house of God.

David had been anointed (oil from olive tree) to be king of Israel but Saul was still in power. Saul not only was in power but was always plotting to get rid of David. It was during this time that David compares himself to a tree that not only withstands the storms of life but actually prospers during difficult circumstances.

David is a leader who has confidence that God loves him. He knows God's love for him will never stop or fail. David finds his peace and success in God and not in his circumstances.

10. According to Psalm 52:8, how long will God love you? For _____ and _____.

11. Will God's love fall short, be incomplete, or fail you in some way? Yes No (Circle one)

Personal Application: As you read and meditate (reflect) on the following scriptures, ask God to give you a message of His love. Please write and share what God revealed to you.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27

Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned. Song of Solomon 8:7

The LORD said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes." Hosea 3:1

Pray the following prayer with a sincere heart:

LORD God,

In love You created all mankind. In love, You created me in Your own image! You reveal that many waters cannot quench Your love for me; rivers cannot wash it away. Though I have sinned and have turned away from you like a traitor, You still love me. You even make a way in Jesus for my sins to be forgiven.

You are reliable and dependable in Your relationship with me. You will never let me down. You are unselfish and generous towards me. You want what is best for me. O God, You care deeply about me and are totally interested in all that I do. You never miss any special events in my life but are always there cheering me on and helping me to succeed in life. You are always by my side when everyone else has left and abandoned me. Even if I don't feel or see Your presence, I know You are working on my behalf to make things right. You bring perfect peace and joy into my life.

O God, You are eternally giving. Thank You for always delighting in me and giving me good gifts. I know that You really, really like me and are radically devoted to me. Thank You for having genuine affection for me. Thank You for loving me. I love You. Amen.

Lesson 2: Triple Love Poured Out (Day Four) *The Love of Christ*

"Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong, they are weak but He is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me, yes Jesus loves, yes Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so."

Perhaps when you began to read the above lyrics (words), you ended up singing this child's song to yourself. It's a good song to help children understand that Jesus does indeed love them. It is a good song to let us know that Jesus loves us.

1. Have you considered how much Christ Jesus loves you? Yes No (Circle one)

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! Philippians 2:6-8

Although Jesus is the second Person of the trinity and fully God, He did not demand or expect His divine rights. He put aside His glory and by the power of the Holy Spirit was born of a virgin named Mary. He stooped down from the most powerful and awesome position in the universe to become a lowly man on earth. He was confined in a frail body whereby He could be bruised and damaged, both physically and emotionally. He experienced trauma, pain and heartache willingly. But He never blamed you.

2. Read Philippians 2:6-8. Have you ever given up your rights for someone else? If so describe what you did. Has anyone ever given up their rights for you? If so describe what he/she did.

3. Could you or anyone you know possibly take as deep a plunge (fall) in position as Jesus?

Yes No (Circle One) Why or Why not?

4. What are your thoughts when you consider how Jesus gave of Himself for you?

Love is giving of oneself for the benefit of another. Jesus gave the ultimate gift of love. Have you heard the old proverbial cliché (line), ‘Actions speak louder than words?’ The Bible would put it this way: *Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.* (1 John 3:18). Jesus’ act of coming down from heaven, taking the form of a man and then dying a painful and horrible death shouts plainly:

“I LOVE YOU!!!!”

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

5. Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so. How does John 15:13 tell you that Jesus loves you?

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

6. Paul tells us in Romans 8:38 that neither _____ nor _____, neither _____ nor _____, neither the _____ nor the _____, nor any _____, neither _____ nor _____, nor _____ _____ in all _____, will be able to _____ us from the _____ of _____ that is in _____ Jesus our _____.

You can rest in God’s love that is in Christ Jesus. It’s secure. God Himself protects you in His love. Indeed no one can snatch you out of His hand (John 10:28-29). God’s love for you cannot be taken away by anyone or anything.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. Romans 8:28-29

Please read Romans 8:28-29. God promises to work all things for our good because we love Him and He has called us to His purpose. Now our good is to be conformed into the image of Jesus Christ. Now think about *your* Leader and Savior. Hmm. Being made into the likeness of our self-sacrificing Savior is not exactly how we usually interpret these verses is it?

But the meaning of these verses hold an eternal and enduring message of love for you. It's a promise of success in your leadership responsibilities. Success, not as the world sees success, but as the Eternal Kingdom of God views it. God is promising to conform you into the likeness of His Son. Whatever is going on in your life, God will use it so that you become more giving, more loving, more compassionate, holier, and kinder. In other words, you will start looking like Jesus.

7. According to Romans 8:28-29 what result is God looking for as He works for your good?

Personal Application:

Even though Jesus was sent to die a horrible death, He trusted in the Father's love for Him. Even though our sins placed Him on the cross, He still loves us and wants to be with us. Even though we sometimes fail God, He invites us to place our burdens at His feet because He always cares.

Mediate on and memorize John 17:24 and 1 Peter 5:7:

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. John 17:24

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

Lesson 2: Triple Love Poured Out (Day Five) *The Love of the Holy Spirit*

1. Have you considered how much the Holy Spirit loves you? Yes No (Circle one)

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

2. Read Romans 5:5. How has God poured out His love into our hearts?

Eternal life with God is eternal bliss. It's a gift of love. Believers are given a forever life of perfect joy and satisfaction. There are no tears, no sorrow and no pain.

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. John 6:63

3. According to John 6:63 who is a major Partner in giving you eternal life?

Read Romans 8:15 and answer questions 4-5:

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Romans 8:15

4. By Whom are we enabled to cry out to God as "Abba Father"?

5. Who testifies with your spirit that you are a child of God?

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. Romans 8:26

6. Read Romans 8:26. Who helps you to pray, intercedes and pleads for you?

The Holy Spirit reveals His love for you throughout the Bible. He wants you in His family. He wants you to be a full member of the family with full inheritance rights. You are called a son of God. Yes, even if you are a woman, you are called a son of God to indicate that you are a full member in God's household. In ancient times, women did not have the right to inherit property and in some cases were considered property themselves. The Spirit of God gives you full status in God's family (Romans 8:16-17, Galatians 3:26-29).

Personal Application:

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11:

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Consider the Spirit's love and the gifts that He makes available to you for leading God's people for their good and the good of those around them. Ask the Spirit to manifest Himself in Your life as He desires and for the glory of our triune God.

Many people struggle with questions about God's love for them. Even though I was born into a family in which I felt loved, I struggled with believing that God really cared about me that much. There are others who have been abused, neglected, abandoned, suffered loss or born with a deformity or disability. If God loved me, I wouldn't have had this particular experience or circumstance in my life. Surprisingly there are even folks who haven't been mistreated in any seemingly major way and still have a terrible time accepting and believing in God's love for them.

7. Do you truly believe that God loves and cares for you? Totally Sometimes Never (Circle One)

8. If you answered sometimes or never above, why do you think you are insecure in God's love for you?

9. How can we pray for you so that you may rest in God's unfailing love?

Believing and accepting God's pure and holy love for you is critical in the life of a Christian leader. You must come to a place in your life where you know without a doubt that God loves you. You trust in His unfailing love every day no matter what seems to be happening. All that you think, do, and plan is dependent on your trust in God's love.

It doesn't matter if every person you have ever known has failed you. It doesn't matter if you have never been loved by any other person in this world. It doesn't matter what people think of you. These earthly things are not a barometer (indicator) of God's love for you.

One of the measurements of God's love for you is that you exist at all. He formed you and knew you before you were born (Jeremiah 1:5, Psalm 139:14-16). He made you in His image (Genesis 1:26). Yes, no matter what you look like or what your limitations, God designed you in His love and for His love. Be encouraged, God made you with the capacity to accept and trust in His love.

Personal Application:

Just as your salvation is an act of faith so is your belief and trust in God's unfailing love. Actually anything that does not come from faith is sin (Romans 14:23). Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in faith and pray right now.

Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit,

I believe that You love me and care for me in a real and personal way. Your love is grand, holy, pure and eternal. I ask that I may experience and rest in your love everyday.

I pray that I never doubt Your love for me at any time or in any circumstance of my life or in the circumstances of other people's lives. Thank You for loving me and answering my prayer of faith. I know that You love me and I trust in Your unfailing love. Amen.

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.¹⁰ But those who hate him he will repay to their face by destruction; he will not be slow to repay to their face those who hate him.¹¹ Therefore, take care to follow the commands, decrees and laws I give you today.¹² If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the LORD your God will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your forefathers.

Deuteronomy 7:9-12

You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.⁴ Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.⁵ Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. Revelation 2:3-5

We have been focusing on God’s love for you. This is the starting point in studying and learning about love. The reason: you and I love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19). We would be remiss (careless) if we didn’t remind you that God’s love must be reciprocated (returned). Read Deuteronomy 7:9-12 and Revelation 2:3-5.

Tell God how much you love Him and seek to match your actions with your words. Our next lesson will focus on fruit and leadership. We will cover practical ways that you might live out your love for God.

-End of Lesson Two-

ANSWERS Lesson 2: CLI Christian Leadership Study: Triple Love Poured Out

Name & Number: _____ Date: _____
(please print clearly)

Name of Institution: _____ Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Lesson 2: Triple Love Poured Out (Day One) Love, Approval and Tough Times

1. After Jesus was baptized in Matthew 3:17, God the Father said, “This is my _____
whom I _____: with him _____ well _____.”

2. How do *you* think God’s love and approval affected Jesus’ life and the choices He made?

3. How will being confident of God's love and approval affect how you live and lead others?

4. Do you view times of testing, struggles or pain as a sign of God's love and confidence in you?
Y N (Circle One) Explain your answer.

5. Whether male or female, how do you become a son of God the Father in whom He delights?

6. Why should we accept the LORD's correction and not become resentful or discouraged?

7. Have you experienced God's correction, rebuke or punishment and how did you handle it?

8. According to Hebrews 12:6, the Lord _____ those he _____
and he _____ everyone he _____ as a _____.

9. Read Romans 5:5. How are we able to love God and love others?

Personal Application:

Are you going through a rough or difficult season now? Y N (Circle One) If yes, please share how we might pray for you.

Lesson 2: Triple Love Poured Out (Day Two) *A New Creation*

1. What did Adam bring into the perfect world that God created? _____

2. In Adam all _____, so in _____ all will be made _____.

3. Why do you think this is important for you to know as a Christian leader?

4. Read Genesis 2:16-17. What would you say to someone who said it wasn't fair that mankind had to inherit Adam and Eve's sin and pay the price of living in a fallen world?

5. According to 2 Corinthians 5:17, are you a new creation? Why or why not?

6. Why do you, I and other Christians still sin after trusting Jesus as Lord and Savior?

7. Are you cooperating with Jesus and His Spirit in the process of your sanctification?

Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

8. How are you helping others in their process of being sanctified? _____

9. Read John 3:6. Who gives birth to your spirit? _____

10. Read John 6:44. Jesus says that no one can come to Him (believe & trust in Him) unless the _____ draws (attracts, pulls) him.

11. In John 6:51 Jesus says that He is the “ _____ bread that came down from heaven.

If anyone _____ of this _____, he will _____ forever. This _____ is my _____, which I will _____ for the _____ of the world.”

12. What are some ways that you are a new creation since becoming a Christian? In other words, what kinds of things do you do and think now that you didn't do and think before?

13. What other kinds of things would you like to see developed in your new heart?

Lesson 2: Triple Love Poured Out (Day Three) *The Love of the Father*

1. In Jeremiah 31:3, the LORD was speaking to Israel but it applies to His people today. The LORD says: “ I have _____ you with and an _____ love; I have _____ you with _____ - _____.”

2. 1 John 4:16a tell us that “we _____ and _____ on the _____ God has for _____. God is _____.”

3. Why do you think a leader needs to know and rely on God's love? _____

4. Have you considered how much your Heavenly Father loves you? Yes No (Circle One)

5. How do we know that God the Father loves us? _____

6. Why would God the Father want us in His famous and unparalleled (supreme) family?

7. Read John 3:16. What is the greatest proof (evidence) of God's love for you?

8. Read Zephaniah 3:17. Who takes great delight in you, calms all your fears, and sings celebration songs over you? _____

9. Is God with you sometimes, most of the time, or always? (Circle One)

10. According to Psalm 52:8, how long will God love you? For _____ and _____.

11. Will God's love fall short, be incomplete, or fail you in some way? Yes No (Circle one)

Personal Application: As you read and meditate (reflect) on the following scriptures, ask God to give you a message of His love. Please write and share what God revealed to you.

Lesson 2: Triple Love Poured Out (Day Four) *The Love of Christ*

1. Have you considered how much Christ Jesus loves you? Yes No (Circle one)

2. Read Philippians 2:6-8. Have you ever given up your rights for someone else? If so describe what you did. Has anyone ever given up their rights for you? If so describe what he/she did.

3. Could you or anyone you know possibly take as deep a plunge (fall) in position as Jesus?

Yes No (Circle One) Why or Why not? _____

4. What are your thoughts when you consider how Jesus gave of Himself for you?

5. Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so. How does John 15:13 tell you that Jesus loves you? _____

6. Paul tells us in Romans 8:38 that neither _____ nor _____, neither _____ nor _____, neither the _____ nor the _____, nor any _____, neither _____ nor _____, nor _____ in all _____, will be able to _____ us from the _____ of _____ that is in _____ Jesus our _____.

7. According to Romans 8:28-29 what result is God looking for as He works for your good?

Personal Application:

Memorize John 17:24 and 1 Peter 5:7. Write your two verses below without looking at them and in this way your Bible Minister will know that you completed your assignment.

John 17:24: _____

1 Peter 5:7 _____

Lesson 2: Triple Love Poured Out (Day Five) *The Love of the Holy Spirit*

1. Have you considered how much the Holy Spirit loves you? Yes No (Circle one)
2. Read Romans 5:5. How has God poured out His love into our hearts? _____
3. According to John 6:63, who is a major Partner in giving you eternal life? _____
4. By Whom are we enabled to cry out to God as “Abba Father”? _____
5. Who testifies with your spirit that you are a child of God? _____
6. Read Romans 8:26. Who helps you to pray, intercedes and pleads for you? _____
7. Do you truly believe that God loves and cares for you? Totally Sometimes Never (Circle One)
8. If you answered sometimes or never above, why do you think you are insecure in God’s love for you? _____

9. How can we pray for you so that you may rest in God’s unfailing love?

Next Lesson 3: Fruit and Leadership

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