

Mt Lebanon Church

Sunday School Lesson

6.29.2025

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Below please find my sharable thoughts, so please allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word to share.

Affection For Those in Christ

1 John 4: 7 - 21

Why are we as believers encouraged to love one another? In order to understand this, we must first learn that God's love is not merely just an emotional feeling, but it is an active, selfless, sacrificial love that reflects his defining characteristics, which is the foundation of our relationship with him, that we are to demonstrate and convey unto others. As believers, loving one another not only reflects the love that God has shown unto us, but it signifies unto others that we have experienced firsthand for ourselves his love that abides within us and we in him. Through God's word, we learn that one of the most recognizable characteristics of the believer should be the love that we have one for another, for it is God's that builds unity within the body of Christ, and with this comes the strength and the ability to overcome worldly fear so that we might fully experience the grace of God in our lives. God's love that is shown will be a powerful witness when it comes to drawing others unto Christ.

John 13: 34 – 35,....a new covenant I give unto you, that ye love one another, as I have loved you, that ye also love one another....by this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another....

Gods' instruction for the believer to love is the foundation on which we build our obedience to his word. Just as Christ humbled himself as a servant of the Father, so too should we as believers do the same. Christ love is holy and pure; it is unconditional and eternal. All believers are participants in God's love, and it is Gods intent for all of humanity to be recipients of his love. Mankind does not however love with a Christlike love, only those who have received Gods free gift of eternal life has the willingness and the ability to love one another as Christ hath loved us.

1 John 4: 7 – 10,....beloved, let us love one another for love is of God....he that loveth not knoweth not God, for God is love....in this was manifested the love of God....because....God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him....herein is love....he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation (atonement) for our sins....

The love of God holds true the characteristics of God. Therefore, Gods love is patient, it is faithful, it is unending, it is unconditional, and it is unearned. Once, we as believers have experienced the love of God, we now have the desire for all of mankind to experience it as well. True wisdom and knowledge of God instinctively links us to demonstrate his love in all that we do. A lack of godly love means that there is an absence of the knowledge of God in our life. Love is not merely something that God has, but it is who he is.

Romans 5: 8,....God commanded his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us....

Because of God's love for us, as believers, we have been given the hope that the suffering in our life can be something that is meaningful and will glorify him. So, what does this kind of love mean to us? It means that Christ took the judgement that was meant for us, the judgement for our sins, which he took to the cross, when he suffered and died in our place, so that we might not have to suffer the judgement of God. While we were yet sinners, we had no hope of avoiding Gods judgement until Christ, Gods only Son, took it for us.

1 John 4: 11 – 16,....if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another....if we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us....hereby we know....because he hath given us of his spirit....we....testify....that the Father sent the Son to be the savior of the world....whosoever shall confess....Jesus....God dwelleth in him, and he in God....we have known and believed the love that God hath to us....

There is a responsibility, an obligation, a duty that is instilled within the life of a believer, and it comes from experiencing God's love. Just as God shows his love toward mankind, so is our love as believers shown to others. It is not a conditional love, or a love based upon merit, but it is a gift freely given. This means that as we experience the love of God it will motivate us to love others, just as Christ himself loves us, regardless of others' actions toward us, or whether or not we feel that others are deserving. God's love is past, present, and future, for he is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Therefore, his love extends into our never ending eternal future. So, how can we say that we love God, if we do not show the same love to one another? God's love is proclaimed throughout the entirety of his word, and by this we discover that his love is beyond human comprehension, for it is a love that is rooted and grounded in his eternal righteousness, perfected in all, who by faith, believe upon his Son, Christ Jesus.

Jeremiah 31: 3,....the Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee....

What a great assurance it is to know the eternal and unchanging nature of God's love, to experience a love that is not limited by time or by worldly situations or circumstances. As believers, we can remain committed to God's unconditional love through the promises and commandments of his word, which offers unto us comfort, especially in times of difficulty and doubt in our lives.

1 John 4: 17 – 21,....here in is our love made perfect....because as he is, so are we in this world....there is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear....he that feareth is not made perfect in love....we love him, because he first loved us....this commandment have we....he who loveth God, love his brother also....

Worldly fear diminishes our understanding of God and keeps us from experiencing God's love in our life. But it is the believer who is growing in faith and spiritually maturing in their life in Christ that can look at the situations and circumstances that we go through in life with the joy and understanding of the Lord, rather than looking at them through worldly fear. Those whose love is perfected in and through God's love have the ability to love others, and if we love one another then God remains in us, and the love of God is made complete in us through the fruit of his spirit. This gives unto the believer a complete and confident assurance in God and in the truth of his word. We must never forget that which we have learned through the truth of God's word, and that is perfect love is not selfish, or immature, nor does it try to take advantage of desperate situations and circumstances. Perfect love is a mature, responsible love that is patient and kind.

1 Corinthians 13: 1 – 13,....love suffereth long....love envieth not....love....is not puffed up....beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things....and now abideth faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is love....

Many in the world today do not understand the true meaning of love, for without God, who is the source of all true love, mankind does not have the ability to love. Therefore, as believers, it is not just our responsibility to become an example of Gods love, but it also has become our responsibility to teach others the true love of God, through the truth of his word. When all else fails, it is the enduring and eternal gift and nature of Gods love that will continue on in this world.

Romans 12: 10,....be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another....

As believers, we are commanded to love one another in the same love that Christ loved us, which is the very love that God himself showed unto all of mankind when he gave unto us the gift of his Son, so that through his sacrifice, we might obtain eternal life.

Let us Pray.

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