

LOVE

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Notes for lesson, “LOVE”

Slide 1

LOVE – what is love and what does it mean to love. This lesson is more of a word study, specifically, how is the word love used in the New Testament?

Slide 2

When we use the word love in today’s vernacular, what are some of it’s definitions? Let’s see.....

Slide 3

As we can see there are many things that we “love”. But do we love each one the same way? Do we love our parents or children the same way that we love our pets? How do we describe the difference in the types of *love* that we have? It is hard to do, but back in the New Testament times it was a little easier to describe what you meant because they had a different word for different types to love.

Slide 4

Philia – Brotherly love, the city of Philadelphia

Storge – Family love

Eros – Sensual love

Agape – non conditional love, love no matter what happens

Agape love is the strongest type of love. This is the type of love that God has for mankind even though we sin and rebel against Him. No matter the sinful things that we have done God still loves (Agape) us. **Romans 5:8**..“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were **yet sinners**, Christ died for us.” That is Agape love!

We can see Jesus and Peter using different words for love in **John 21:15-19**.

Slide 5

We may wonder, “Why did Jesus ask Peter three times if he loved Him?” There are a couple of possibilities: **1.** Jesus is testing Peter to see how much he loves Him. *For in this passage there is a pattern, with Jesus asking Peter twice whether he loves him (agapao) and each time Peter responding that, yes, he does love him (phileo). Then the third time Jesus switches to using Peter's word.* This may show that Peter did love Jesus but he was not as boastful about it as he had been before the crucifixion of Jesus. Remember, this event happen after the resurrection and Peter’s denial of Jesus three times. Before the crucifixion Peter had been adamant about never forsaking the Lord and would die with Him if necessary! Let’s read about Jesus telling Peter that he would deny Him three times...

Slide 6

So now when Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him (*agapao*) Peter responds “yes he does” but he uses the lesser form of the word love (*phileo*) **2.** Since Peter had denied Jesus three times, Jesus may be allowing Peter to respond back three times that he did LOVE Jesus. But whatever the reason we see that Peter did come back to Jesus and loved Him. Now, I want us to look at what is commonly called the LOVE chapter of the Bible, **I Cor. 13....**

Slide 8

Isn’t that a beautiful passage? Here the Apostle Paul gives us the best description of what love is all about. We see that love is....

Slide 9

Patient = Literally love suffers long; it has a long fuse. When Jesus was wronged He was patient and silent.

Kind = Love goes out of its way to be good to others.

Envy = Love desires the best for others.

Boast = The Greek implies that we “do not boast like a windbag”. Jesus never showed off or bragged about who He was or what He could do.

Proud = Love is not arrogant. Pride is inflated selfishness and self worth.

Love is genuine humility.

Rude = Love is not inconsiderate or inattentive.

Seeking = God’s love does not grasp for its own rights. This rules out selfish or conditional love, such as “I will love you if” or “as long as” etc.

Slide 10

Angered = Does not easily become irritated, not touchy, grouchy. Jesus was never vindictive. He never retaliated when wronged, grumbled or complained

Wrong = God's love forgives and forgets, does not hold a grudge.

Truth = Love is never glad when others do wrong or bad things happen to others. It does not delight in weakness of others. Does not gloat or gossip.

Things = God's love gives the benefit of the doubt. It is loyal, yet not gullible. It is slow to judge then judges righteously.

Hopes = It never take failure as final. Looks toward the future not the past, looks toward the positive not the negative.

Endures = Love perseveres, does not give up. God's love can not be conquered. Christ endured to the end and so must we.

Fail = Love is eternal, never ends, never fails, never loses strength. It is immovable.

Jesus lived on this earth without sin, an example showing us how to live as Christians. Since God is Love then all of these attributes of love should be the same attributes displayed in the life of Jesus, let's see....(next slide)

Slide 12

Do these attributes fit Jesus? Yes they do! Jesus was perfect in all aspects of love. But what about us? We are Christians, we are to be Christ like, which means we are to imitate Jesus in all aspects of our life. Do we display the same attributes of love as Jesus did? Let's take a quick quiz and see....

Slide 13

Say your name. For example, Bob, Mary, Jeff, Janet whatever your name is and then list the attributes of love and see if these attributes describe your life. This may be eye opening. Let's begin, (say your name and then have the those in the audience do the same to themselves and list each attribute)

Slide 15

If you are like me, not so well. I don't know about you, but I have a lot of work to do.

Slide 16

As great and devoted as the Apostle Paul was, he said he still was not perfected and was growing and maturing. Let's read **Phil. 3:12-14**...

Slide 17

End the lesson by asking the last two questions on the next slide and then making any closing remarks you want to make and offer the invitation.