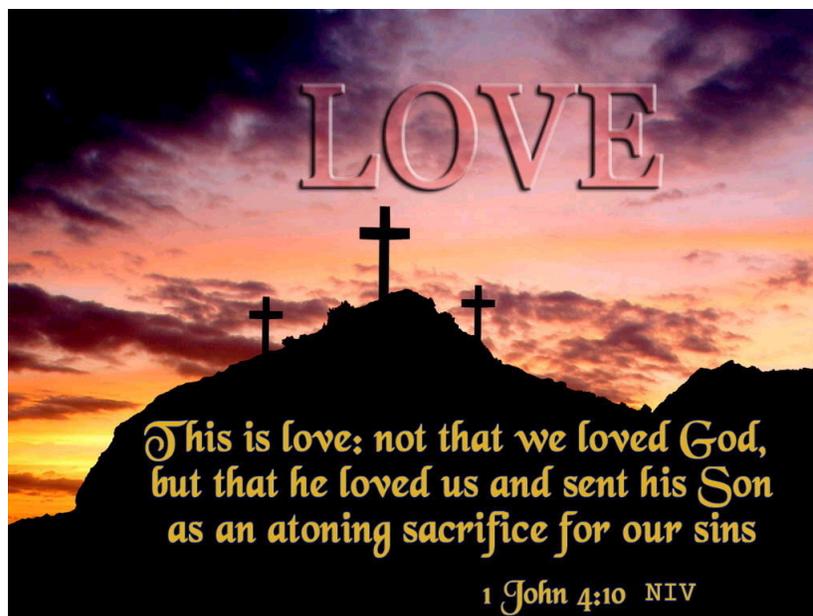


The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 68

The Love of God



Love One Another As I Have Loved You

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. [\(Acts 16:31\)](#) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." [\(John 3:16\)](#) "God loved the world so much that He gave us His One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."



Lesson

The fruit of the Spirit is LOVE...



When we live in the vine we produce the love of God. The love of God is absolutely WONDERFUL!!!! It is a love that shows itself when someone lays down his life for his friends. Jesus loved us so much that He laid down His life for us in that even while we were sinners, He died in our place and paid the penalty for our sins. THAT'S LOVE!!

When we believe in Jesus and desire to show our appreciation for what He has done for us, we obey Him and learn all about Him and as a result we change from the inside out and become just like Him producing the fruit of the Spirit. **Gal 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control..."**

The fruit that the kingdom of darkness cannot ever produce is God's love and we know it's God's love by the fact that it is sacrificial and lasts forever.

Jesus said in **John 15: 14-17 "You are My friends if you do what I command you. (15) No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. (16) You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. (17) This I command you, that you love one another."** This love is supernatural from start to finish. It can ONLY be produced by God. **Rom 5:5-8 "...and hope (confidence) does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (6) For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. (7) For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. (8) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."**

Notice something about the love of God. It demonstrates itself. The love of God is not inactive. The love of God is active. And the love of God is sacrificial. It is amazing how often the New Testament makes this point about the love of God. God love is unique...very special and it shows itself by His willingness to sacrifice and suffer in order to get whatever is best for his loved ones...believers.

This is the kind of love that gives and serves and covers, laying one's life down for others, with a willingness to suffer in order that the other may have new life. The Bible links love and suffering again and again and again. This supernatural love from God is a love that is willing to suffer...Jesus was WILLING and HE DID suffer for us. THAT'S LOVE!!!!

You see this is one part of God's love that makes it counterfeit-proof. In other words Satan can't imitate it or copy it no matter how hard he tries. That's awesome!!! He can only get negative results.

Let's look at what the prophet Isaiah predicted about Jesus in **Isa 63:8-9**. **"For He said, 'surely, they are My people, sons who will not deal falsely. So He became their Savior. (9) In their entire suffering He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them; in His love and in His mercy He redeemed them, and He lifted them and carried them all the days of old."**

Here are more verses in the Bible that tell us of the LOVE of GOD:

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

John 11:33-36 "When Jesus therefore saw her (Lazarus' sister) weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled, (34) and said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to Him, 'Lord, come and see.' (35) Jesus wept. (36) So the Jews were saying, 'See how He loved him!'"

John 15:12-13 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. (13) Greater love has no one than this that one lay down his life for his friends. (14) You are my friends if you do as I command you."

Rom 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

2 Cor 5:14-15 "For the love of Christ controls us, having realized this, that one died for all, therefore all died; (15) and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf."



Gal 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."

Eph 5:1-2 "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; (2) and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma (pleasing to God)."

Eph 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her..."

1 John 3:16 "We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren (believers)."

1 John 4:9 "By this the love of God was shown in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him."

1 John 4:10 "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

This supernatural love from God is a love that is willing to suffer. And suffer Jesus did. No one has ever suffered like He did for us. And He did it willingly. He wanted to suffer for us. THAT'S LOVE!!!

Without LOVE we cannot please God. In **1 Cor 13**, right in the middle of Paul's greatest teaching on spiritual gifts, we get a detailed description of this kind of love: **1 Cor 13:1-8 "If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal (annoying). (2) If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. (3) And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned (as a martyr), but do not have love, it gains me nothing. (4) Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant (5) or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; (6) it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. (7) Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (8) Love never ends..."**

So this thing called love...how do we know when it's the REAL THING (after all, Satan tries hard to produce a false or counterfeit love)? Let's look at what Paul says in the above passage in **1 Cor 13:4-7**. Paul does not use adjectives to describe love, but verbs. He uses 15 verbs in 3 verses. Love is active. Love does things. Love is as love does. You can't really even define God's love: it shows itself in action, and you record what it does and what it doesn't do. God's love is forced to show itself, put itself on display for us. So if you want to know the counterfeit, take the opposites of God's activities shown here. Especially take the negative of anything expressed in the negative here in **1 Cor 13:4**. Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant. So the counterfeit love is jealousy. The counterfeit love brags so the counterfeit love is arrogant. **1 Cor 13:5** **"...does not act inappropriately; it does not seek its own, is not annoyed, does not take into account a wrong suffered."**

The counterfeit love produced by Satan SEEKS ITS OWN. It is selfish and self-centered. Counterfeit love is easily annoyed. Counterfeit love holds grudges and is super sensitive about every wrong suffered.

God's love in **1 Cor 13:6** does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. Satan's counterfeit love is TOLERANCE. Tolerance is willing to forget God's truth for the sake of getting along. It's called finding the middle ground...human solutions instead of standing up for what is right...God's TRUTH.

God's love in **1 Cor 13:7** **"...bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and suffers all things."**

So here we truly see the qualities of this love from God, this fruit, qualities that prove this love is genuine...REAL...the good seed is the Word of God. The fruit is the love of God. The fruit is a love that is alive. It acts. It gives. A life of love. A love life. That's what Jesus wants from us.



Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on January 4, 2012
Lighthouse Bible Church

