

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 82

Christ's Love for Us



2015

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never personally 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 sins 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 is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."**



Lesson

How do we live in Christ's love? We live in Christ's love by keeping His commandments. What commandments are those? They are the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. **John 15:11-13 "These things I have spoken to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. (12) 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."** And here we have the answer to the question, what commandments are those?



The command is that you love one another, just as Christ has loved you. And how has He loved us? He laid down His life for us. Jesus loved us so much that He died on the cross in our place and paid the penalty for our sins and the sins of all mankind. NOW THAT'S LOVE!!!!!!

The kingdom of darkness cannot ever produce this kind of fruit...the fruit of God's love and we know it is God's love by the fact that it is sacrificial and it lasts forever! The love of God is a love that shows itself when someone lays down his life for his friends (the one or ones that he loves).

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 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 some passive characteristic. 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's love is this unique love that shows itself by the willingness to sacrifice and suffer in order to obtain whatever is in the best interest of the one loved.

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. This is one side of God's love that makes it counterfeit-proof.

John 3:16 "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 11:33-36 "When Jesus therefore saw her 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."



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 concluded 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."

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."

1 John 4:9 "By this the love of God was manifested 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 (God's is satisfied with Jesus' work on the cross) for our sins."



And in 1 Cor 13:1-3, right smack dab in the middle of Paul's longest teaching on spiritual gifts, we get a detailed description of this love: "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. (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, but do not have love, it profits me nothing."

So this thing called love... how do we know when it's the REAL THING? After all, Satan tries hard to produce counterfeit love. How can we tell the difference?

Here's how. 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. You can't really even define God's love: it shows itself in action, and you record what it does and does not do.

God's love is made to demonstrate itself, put itself on display. If you want to know the counterfeit love, take the opposites of the activities shown here. In particular, take the negative of anything expressed in the here.

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 jealous. The counterfeit love does brag. The counterfeit love is arrogant.

1 Cor 13:5 "...does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered..." Counterfeit love does act unbecomingly. Counterfeit love... and here is the key to Satan's counterfeit love...SEEKS ITS OWN. Counterfeit love is selfish and easily provoked. Counterfeit love holds grudges and is super sensitive about every wrong suffered.

1 Cor 13:6 "...does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth..." Satan's counterfeit love is NOT accepting TRUTH but is willing to reject the truth for the sake of getting along.

1 Cor 13:7 "...bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things."

So here we have obvious qualities of this love, this fruit... qualities that prove the love is genuine. This is the love of Christ and you have it.

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. It gives a life of love. It is a love life.

Close in prayer.

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