



Longer quotations do not appear in the Study Sheet, but can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Love One Another

Tremendous _____ seems to face our country, and anger over differences troubles our unity and ability to communicate. How can we love one another? Looking to the _____ and the love of God can transform our lives. What we know about God's love comes from a thoughtful _____ of the Scriptures. With the love of God comes peace and forgiveness, things necessary for people to live in _____. Without a knowledge of that _____ shown on the cross, people continue to fight and hate. This book gives us _____ to love, and we must love one another and even our enemies.

What is the greatest _____ in your life? Many say family, job, or achieving some goal. A religious lawyer once asked Jesus, "Teacher, which is the _____ commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your _____ with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and _____ commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your _____ as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophet'" (Matthew 22:36-40). Our first _____ is to love God fully in every way. Another priority like it is to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Some think they can love God but not love their brother or neighbor, but they may not be _____ clearly. First John 4:20-21 says, "If anyone says, 'I love God,' and _____ his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen _____ love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God _____ also love his brother." We all need reminding to love even those who are hard to love.

Our reading today comes from 1 John 3:16-18. John talks about what it means to love.

That's how God _____ us to love. In deed and in truth. Love is at the _____ of all Christianity. We're _____ to love God and to love others. If we fail to love, we have failed at the _____ important task of life. First Corinthians 13:1-3 says, "If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have _____, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 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 _____. 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." A loveless Christianity is no Christianity at all.

God distinguishes those who love others from those who don't. First John 3:10 says, "By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not _____ righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. For this is the _____ that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." When

people fail to love others, they will also fail to _____ the Lord's commandments. Being a child of God means loving others the way that God has loved you.

Love is the motivator for _____ that we do as Christians. Second Corinthians 5:14-15 says, "For the love of Christ _____ us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their _____ died and was raised." The cross of Christ moves us not only to love Jesus but also to _____ our hearts and our lives totally to Him. That means we must _____ to ourselves and _____ for Him.

Jesus wants us to love _____ the way that He loved us. **Read what the Lord Jesus said in John 13:34-35.** We're to love as Jesus loved. If we _____ love the way some people do, we'd hardly love anyone at all. We must outgrow our self-centered ways and put others _____, just as Jesus did. Philippians 2:3 says, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in _____ count others more significant than yourselves."

You might ask, "How did Jesus love people?" First, Jesus cared for those who are in _____ physically. **Read 1 John 3:16-18.** Jesus led the way! He healed the sick, He fed the poor, He showed compassion to all who were in _____. The Lord Jesus _____ honestly to us about feeding and clothing the poor and visiting the sick and those in prison. "Truly I say to you, to the _____ that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even to the least of them, you did it to Me" (Matthew 25:40). When we give to _____ others today, we're giving love to them and to the Lord Jesus.

Second, Jesus cared for their _____ as well as their bodies. Luke 5:31-32 says, "And Jesus answered them, 'Those who are _____ have no need of a physician, but those who are _____. I have not come to call the righteous but _____ to repentance.'" Jesus, by leading a perfectly sinless life, leads us to _____ more righteously. He forgives our past, which allows us to _____ and become people who have a good conscience. Jesus helped people change by the life that he lived and by His preaching and teaching. In Mark 1:38 Jesus said to His disciples, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may _____ there also, for that is why I came out." He wanted everyone to be spiritually _____.

Third, He _____ his body and his life for them. First Peter 2:24 says, "He Himself bore our sins in His _____ on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed." Jesus sacrificed Himself so that we could _____ with Him forever. He died so that we might _____; He suffered so that we could be _____ and enjoy everlasting life. He bore whips and nails, and beatings and spit, and mockery and humiliation. He didn't fight back, but He _____ it for your sake and for mine. He loved us.

Fourth, Jesus suffered for their _____ to bring us to God. First Peter 3:18 says, "For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might _____ us to God." He was not content to _____ us where He found us. He wanted something grander for us. He wanted to give us an opportunity to _____ our Creator, the One who made and sustains us and the One to whom we pray. To Jesus, God was not merely "my Father"; He's "_____ Father." Because of Jesus

we can be His _____. He wanted to be in our lives now and forever. There's no greater _____ in life than to have God as our Father.

Fifth, Jesus forgives and wants _____ to forgive. First Peter 4:8 says, "Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of _____." Jesus loves us and is willing to _____ a multitude of our sins. He taught us _____ to forgive. We forgive because of what God has _____ for us and because we are God's children. The Lord Jesus said, "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will _____ forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will _____ forgive your transgressions" (Matthew 6:14-15).

People will always _____ us. If we don't learn how to react to offenses, we'll spend our lives in _____. Revenge doesn't _____ the heartaches; it keeps anger alive. Anger will not achieve the righteousness of God but spreads to _____. Anger breeds anger, and hatred breeds more hatred. If we let anger _____ in our hearts it will destroy our soul and it will ruin our life. Ephesians 4:26-27 says, "Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the _____ an opportunity." We live in a cruel and violent world because people have never _____ to forgive as Jesus did.

Ephesians 4:31-32 says, "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be _____ from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." Recently I've seen where members of the church have forgiven others even when someone has killed a family member. This is how Christ lived and how He wants His people to live.

The Lord Jesus taught, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and _____ your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and _____ for those who persecute you, so that you may be _____ of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what _____ do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:43-48).

Jesus practiced what He preached. The Lord Jesus said, "Father, _____ them; for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:33-34). Jesus was willing to forgive those who were hurting and killing Him, nailing Him to a _____. Stephen also showed the same love. When they were stoning him to death, Stephen cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this _____ against them" (Acts 7:60).

Sixth, Jesus confronted those who were thinking wrongly and those who sinned. Matthew 16:21-24 says, "From that time Jesus began to _____ his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be _____. Peter took him aside and began to _____ him, saying, 'Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your _____ on the things of God, but on the things of man.'"

You might wonder how a _____ like this is loving. We're so easily offended these days, and we've decided that anyone who criticizes another is somehow _____, or mean-spirited or judgmental. Unwarranted criticism, slander, and judging is certainly wrong; but rebukes that _____ to righteousness can be the most loving things that one can do. Proverbs 27:6 says, "Faithful are the wounds of a _____, But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy." Agreeing with and approving sin doesn't help anybody to _____. The Lord Jesus said, "Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent" (Revelation 3:19). Leaving a soul in sin is the most _____ thing that one can do.

Love is a verb; it reveals itself by what it _____. We all want to hear those precious words, "I love you." However, we want love to be _____, not just be told. Love is not only an emotion; it's a way of life; it is evident by what it does. God demonstrated His love in giving Jesus to us, and God wants us to demonstrate our love by loving Him and loving others.

Read how Paul described love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. When a person acts like this you don't have to wonder if they love you, you see it in their _____ and know it's in their _____. First Corinthians 13:8 simply says, "Love never fails." Jesus never stopped loving us! John 13:1 says, "Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the _____." Jesus washed the disciples feet, knowing they'd _____. He washed Peter's feet, knowing that he would _____ Him three times. Jesus even washed Judas Iscariot's feet. Jesus endured the trials, the beatings, and the cross; and through it all He never _____ sacrificing Himself or loving us! He was not a fickle, fair-weather friend. When we love _____, we should love Him to the end. When we love the _____, we should love it to the end.

Read 1 John 2:3-6. Loving God means _____ His commandments, and loving others the way that He loved us is a big part of that!

Do you love the Lord? Of course you do. Can people see that by the way that you _____ His commandments? Can they _____ you walking like Jesus walked and living like Jesus lived? Do you love others? If you miss doing this; you miss what it takes to be a Christian. When God's love is in your heart, you'll _____ life beautiful and glorious. When God's love is in your heart, you'll _____ to do what's right and you'll treat others the way that you want to be treated. When God's love is in your heart, you act kindly to those in _____. When God's love is in your heart, you'll _____ fighting with God. You'll simply _____ and _____ His commandments.

Love moves us to place our trust in the Lord Jesus, to give up our sins and live in righteousness, to confess Jesus Christ as God's Son, and to be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. Whatever God in Scripture asks of us, we'll do. We'll listen to Him rather than human sources that may lead us astray. Love means focusing our close attention on Jesus Christ and being like Him.