

Lesson Eleven

Grace and Loving One Another

In order to fully appreciate this topic, one must have an understanding of the previous lesson for without understanding God's love for us, our efforts to love one another will be incomplete. For this reason, we begin by recapping Lesson Ten "The Grace and Love of God".

I The Greatest Commands of the Old Covenant

Matthew 22:36-40

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷And He said to him, " YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' ³⁸This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' ⁴⁰"On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

II We are not under the Law and Prophets.

1 Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

John 1:16-17

And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:14

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

2 God proclaimed that we should listen to His Son.

Matthew 17:5

While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

3 God now speaks through Jesus.

Hebrews 1:1-2

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.

III The Greatest Commands of the New Covenant

A Jesus gave His disciples one commandment.

John 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

B The Two Commands of the New Covenant

1 **John 3:23**

*And this is His commandment: that we should **believe** on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and **love** one another, as He gave us commandment.*

*Jesus not only told us to love one another,
but he defined the quality of this love by saying,
“As I have loved you.”*

*Most people when faced with this command
immediately recognize their inadequacy to fulfill it.¹*

IV In order to love one another AS HE LOVES US, we must know and believe in His love. **ONLY** as we begin to trust in, rest in, and rely on His love, we will be better able to love each other.

1 John 4:19

We love BECAUSE He first loved us.

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.

1 John 3:1

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!

Titus 3:4-7

But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified² by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Romans 8:33-39

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Thessalonians 3:5

Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.

1 John 4:18

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Romans 8:15

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

¹ It is very important to note that “loving one another” is not how we are saved. Loving one another is a fruit of our salvation.

A Abiding in His Love for You**Jude 1:20-21**

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Ephesians 3:17-19

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— ¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

John 15:9

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

1 John 4:16-17

And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

*Believing God loves us
involves speaking forth
our beliefs by either
saying/singing of His love
for us or thanking Him
for loving us.*

V GOD IS LOVE**A If God is love (agape), and love (agape)**

is described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, then God is described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

Love (God) suffers long and is kind; love (God) does not envy; love (God) does not parade itself, (God) is not puffed up; ⁵(God) does not behave rudely, (God) does not seek its own, (God) is not provoked, (God) thinks no evil; ⁶(God) does not rejoice in iniquity, but (God) rejoices in the truth; ⁷(God) bears all things, (God) believes all things, (God) hopes all things, (God) endures all things. ⁸ Love (God) never fails.

VI To love each other as Jesus loved us, we must live in His love for us.**1 John 4:19****We love BECAUSE He first loved us.**

Because God loves us as described above, we are able to love others the same way. People who do not know God loves them unconditionally usually fall short of loving others. The solution? Know, believe, and abide in His love for you. “Love” is a fruit of the Spirit and it will grow as we become more confident in His love.

“Grace and Loving One Another”

I Apart from God’s grace we might see loving each other as something we add to an already long list of man-made religious disciplines.

- ✓ *Have a daily devotion.*
- ✓ *Read the Bible daily.*
- ✓ *Go to church when the church doors are open.*
- ✓ *Tithe and give sacrificially.*
- ✓ *Witness to all who breathe.*
- ✓ *Heal the sick, raise the dead, and feed the poor.*
- ✓ *Don’t smoke, don’t chew, and don’t hang with those who do.*
- ✓ *Have perfect faith and get everything you ask.*
- ✓ *Be a perfect husband, wife, mother, father, child, friend, neighbor, citizen, etc.*
- ✓ *Carefully organize each minute of your day so you can redeem the time.*
- ✓ *Be a full-time minister or at least be heavily involved in your local church.*
- ✓ *Demonstrate all fruits of the spirit at all times.*
- ✓ *Obey the Beatitudes.*
- ✓ *Get involved in ministry.*
- ✓ *Go the extra mile.*
- ✓ *Love each other.*



For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

II When we understand His grace, we can lay aside the law and religious expectations and follow His simple instructions³.

- ✓ **Believe in Jesus.**
- ✓ **Love one another.**



This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

1 John 5:3

³ It is also clear that when we stop trying to fulfill our list we will have more time and money to fulfill His. *1 John 3:23*

III Loving each other is a result of being loved by God. When we know and believe that God loves us, we are set free to love each other.

1 John 4:7-11

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹By 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. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

*¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us,
we also ought to love one another.*

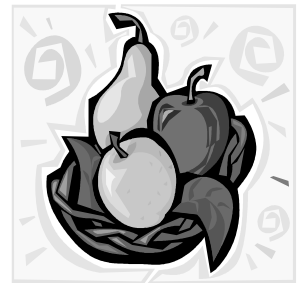
IV Loving one another is a fruit of the Spirit, a supernatural outflow of our love relationship with God. He is the one who teaches us to love each other.

Galatians 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love.

1 Thessalonians 4:9

But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.



V Those who do not love, do not know God.

1 John 4:20-21

If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

VI Christians who are irregular, selective, or stingy in their love for other believers have likely forgotten that God loves them.

A Because they see God as withholding love, they feel justified doing the same.

B They think God has favorites (and that they are likely one of them), so they have favorites....or

C They don't think God loves them, so they don't love others.

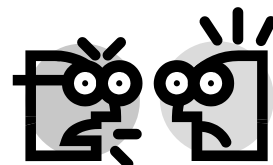
- D They think God withholds love or blessings to teach lessons, and so do they.
- E They think God is pointing out their every fault, and so they do the same.
- F If you disagree with their legalistic theology, they might see YOU as the enemy and persecute you, just as the Jews persecuted Jesus.

No man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹ *With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.*

¹⁰ *Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing.*

My brethren, these things ought not to be so. James 3:8-10



VII All of our actions of love are a result of what we have received from God.

A Our love for others is based on God's love for us.

1 John 4:19

*We love **BECAUSE** He first loved us.*

B Because we have already been forgiven by God, we are free to forgive others.

Ephesians 4:32

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

C As God gives everything to us by His grace (unearned favor), so we give to each other.

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

1 Corinthians 2:12

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

Matthew 10:8

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.



VIII While there are emotions involved in loving one another, the Biblical perspective is much more practical.

A God's love is **DEMONSTRATED BY HIS ACTIONS.**

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

B We demonstrate our love by our actions.

1 John 3:17-18

But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?¹⁸

My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

IX The world will know we are His by our love for each other.

John 13:35

By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

X We demonstrate our love for God by loving each other.

Matthew 25:32-40

All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep⁴ from the goats.³³ And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right hand⁵, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;³⁶ I was naked and you



*clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'*³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?³⁹ Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'⁴⁰ And the King will answer and say to them, ***'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'***

John 21:15

*So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, **do you love Me** more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "**Feed My lambs.**"*

John 14:15

"If you love Me, keep My commandments."

1 John 3:23

This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

⁴ We are his sheep.

⁵ Jesus is addressing believers as a group, not as individuals.