

Personal Study Guide Part 7 The Love of God

Read the following introduction then watch the video using pages 2-4 to take notes.

Introduction - Three facts about love

- **Fact #1:** It's a universal need - Everyone is looking for love!

- **Fact #2:** There's a universal solution - God loves all people everywhere and longs to meet the deepest needs of every heart for love!

- **Fact #3:** There's a tragic disconnection - Even so, most people remain starved for love... for three primary reasons:
 1. They don't know God loves them.
 2. They know of God's love, but have not received it.
 3. They have received God's love, but don't know how to experience it in daily life.

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called the children of God! And that is what we are!"

1 John 3:1

Defining the love of God

- **Definition** – God’s love is His holy disposition toward all that He has created that compels Him to express unconditional affection and selective correction to provide the highest and best quality of existence both now and forever for the objects of His love.

- **Characteristics of God’s agape love include:**
 - It is a GIVING love John 3:16
 - It is a SACRIFICIAL love John 3:16
 - It is an UNCONDITIONAL love John 3:16
 - It is a BOUNDLESS love Ephesians 3:14-21

- **Love is giving another person what they need the most, when they deserve it the least, at great personal cost.**

- **God’s love for you means . . .**
 1. His thoughts, intentions, desires, and plans for you are always for your good and never for your harm.
 2. He is kind, open, approachable, frank, and eager to be your friend.
 3. He emotionally identifies with your pain, joy, hopes, and dreams and has chosen to allow your happiness to affect His own.
 4. He takes pleasure in you just for who you are totally apart from your performance and/or accomplishments.
 5. He is actively and creatively orchestrating people, circumstances, and events to express His affection and selective correction to provide for your highest good.

God reveals His love to us through . . .

_____ - He made you for Himself. Genesis 1:26-27, Colossians 1:16

_____ - He shows His kindness to all. Matthew 5:44-45, Acts 17:24-27

_____ - He is proactively pursuing you. Luke 19:10, John 4:23-24

_____ - He chastises us to protect us from self-destructive behavior.
Hebrews 12:6

_____ - He supernaturally pours His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.
Romans 5:5

_____ – God the Son revealed the nature of God’s love for us.

- Jesus’ life modeled compassion, grace, and truth John 1:14
- Jesus’ teaching explained God’s love Luke 15
- Jesus’ death demonstrated the extent of God’s love 1 John 3:16, Romans 5:8

“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8

**An object’s value
is always determined by the price paid for it.**

**To God, you are worth the price
of His Son’s death in your place.**

How must we respond to God's love?

1. We must _____ by faith in **our hearts**. John 3:16

Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.

John 1:12

2. We must _____ **that God loves us**. 1 John 4:13-16

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

Romans 8:38-39

3. We must _____ by faith through **our choices and decisions**.

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:18

Application:

1. What next step would help you experience God's love and pass it on this week?
2. Choose to do one small act of kindness every day this week and see God work.

GO DEEPER & TALK IT OVER

We are better together because God created us for relationships. Work through the following questions with a friend.

Read the Scriptures on page 3 and meditate on God's revealed love for you.

Chip mentions four characteristics of God's love:

It is GIVING, SACRIFICIAL, UNCONDITIONAL and BOUNDLESS

- Which of these do you connect with the most, and why?
- We are called to reflect God's love. Which one is the most challenging for you to show toward others and why?