

Foundations Lesson #8

Love

The term “love” can mean vastly different things to different people. Therefore, we need to understand what God means when he uses the word “love” in the Scripture. Only then will we be able to love all people the way God has intended.

I. love as it is used in the Bible

- love defined – an attitude of viewing another as precious and valuable, therefore choosing and desiring to treat them according to what is best for them
 - is primarily a choice – Deuteronomy 30:16a / Galatians 5:14 / II John 6b / I John 3:23
 - also involves some emotion – Mark 10:21 / Lamentations 3:22 / Luke 15:20
 - includes discipline and correction – Hebrews 12:5-11 / Revelation 3:19
- love described – I Corinthians 13:4-8a
- love exemplified – I John 3:16 / John 15:13-14 / I John 4:9-10 / Revelation 1:5b

II. the origin of all love: **GOD**

- I John 4:7 / I John 4:16
- loving the world – John 3:16 / Romans 5:6-8
- loving his sons and daughters – I John 3:1 / John 16:27 / John 17:23 / Romans 8:38-39

III. the importance of love

- the first and greatest commandment – Matthew 22:36-40 / Matthew 10:37
- “love” in its various forms used 321 times in the New Testament
- more important than being gifted or making sacrifices – I Corinthians 13:1-3
- I Corinthians 16:14 / I Corinthians 13:13 / Galatians 5:6

IV. the command for us to love

- Ephesians 5:2 / II Peter 1:5-7 / Jude 21 / I Timothy 6:11
- empowerment from God – Romans 5:5 / II Timothy 1:7 / I John 4:19
- loving God – Luke 11:42 / Deuteronomy 11:1 / I Corinthians 16:22
- loving family – Ephesians 5:25, 33 / Titus 2:4
- loving one another in the church – John 13:34-35 / Hebrews 13:1 / I Peter 4:8
- loving our neighbor, our fellow man – Romans 13:8-10 / Galatians 5:13-14 / James 2:8
- loving enemies – Matthew 5:43-44 / Luke 6:27-31
- loving people indiscriminately – Matthew 5:45-48 / Luke 6:32-36
- growing in love – I Thessalonians 3:12 / II Thessalonians 1:3 / Hebrews 10:24

V. some evidences of loving God

- obeying the Lord – John 14:15, 21, 23-24 / I John 5:2-3
- **not** loving the world – I John 2:15-17 / Colossians 3:1-2
- **not** loving money – Matthew 6:24 / I Timothy 6:6-10
- generosity in giving – Luke 16:9 / II Corinthians 9:7

VI. closing Scriptures

- Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up (I Corinthians 8:1b).
- And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ (Ephesians 3:17b-18).
- Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good (Romans 12:9).
- Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength (Mark 12:30).
- Do everything in love (I Corinthians 16:14).