



BIBLE STUDY 4

CHAPTER 3: LOVE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE LESSON: I JOHN 3:11-22

OBJECTIVE: Christians are to love with the right heart because God is love.

Is there anything wrong with love? If nothing is wrong with love, then why is love so complicated? Why is love confusing? Why doesn't love last?

Something has to be wrong with love!

- People are not able to work together
- People lie on each other
- People literally kill each other
- People withhold from other people

Read Jeremiah 17:9 What does this verse tell you about love?

- Love is an Action Word

Rule About Love

1. Love is not about what you get or receive, but what you do.
2. Love is open, love always has the light on.

LESSON IDEAS

Read I John 3:11-22

We learned from I John 2:11 that love for a brother depends on light and darkness. If one walks in darkness and hates his brother, he "has blinded eyes."

Now, John is saying that love for a brother is a matter of life and death. I John 3:14 says, "he who does not love abides in death."

In both of these scenarios this is not the love track that believers should exhibit. Our love is based on abiding in Jesus and walking in the light of Jesus, I John 2:4,10.



Study in the Book of I John

Let's look at how love should be exhibited in relationships.

(I) First, Love Stems from Righteousness, I John 3:7, 12

A. Believers are to practice righteousness

Read Romans 5:7; 6:13

DEFINITION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: Relying upon the discernment of the Holy Spirit to conduct oneself in loving and wholesome actions

B. Example of Unrighteous Actions, vs. 11-12

Read Genesis 4:1-8

John uses the example of Cain and Abel to discuss love for one another, in particular a brother.

The brothers brought an offering to the Lord

1. Cain brought the fruit of the ground, vs. 3
2. Abel brought the firstlings of his flock and of the fat portions, vs. 4

QUESTION: Why did Cain kill his brother Abel?

Read I John 3:12

QUESTION: Who was Cain? _____

QUESTION: Who was Abel? _____

Love requires the right spirit, Galatians 5:22-23. Filter your love, through the fruit of the spirit to ensure that you are loving with the right motives.

Fruit of Spirit

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Longsuffering



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- 5. Gentleness
- 6. Goodness
- 7. Faith
- 8. Meekness
- 9. Temperance

What aspects of your love do you need to work on to ensure righteous love?

(II) Secondly, Love Requires Sacrifice, vs. 14-17

- A. One who hates his brother is a murderer, vs. 15

Read Genesis 37:4-5 How did Joseph's brothers feel about him and why?

QUESTION: Is there someone you hate or are close to hating? And why do you hate them? Are you abhorring evil thoughts in your heart?

QUESTION: Are you unforgiving to someone?

- B. Love requires you to lay down your life for others' lives, vs. 16

Read Romans 5:6-7; 12:14-21

What do these verses tell you about love?

- C. Be willing to give to your brother, vs. 17

Read Matthew 5:38-44

What do these verses tell you about love?



Study in the Book of I John

(III) Love is Action, vs. 18-22

A. Love in deed and truth

Love with truth, I John 2:21 - Truth is based on the word of God.

B. A condemning heart robs one of joy, vs. 20

The heart will accuse you wrongly, Jeremiah 17:9

When you walk with God your heart is open to God and His love.

Read Matthew 26:69-75, Peter denied Jesus and then wept bitterly.

But in Mark 16:7, Jesus told the ladies, go and tell Peter. Jesus reassured him of his love and of Peter's purpose.

C. A condemning heart will rob you of your confidence vs. 21

Read Revelations 12:10 – Be careful not to let the devil accuse you and rob you of your confidence.

D. Love requires you to be prayerful, vs. 22

Love produces confidence in God and faith in His commandments. You will prove your love to the brethren because you have faith in God.

Read Romans 13:8-10, I John 3:22

Conclusion: One of the keys to answered prayer is obedience. The secret to obedience is LOVE, John 14:15