

A Cup Overflowing – A study of the Christian life

Lesson 8:

A Christian Life is...

A Love-filled Life

The greatest commandment

- “Expert in the law” tested Jesus:
 - Matthew 22:35-40
 - Mark 12:28-34
 - Luke 10:25-28
- The Hebrew “shema”
 - Deuteronomy 6:4-5, “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

Let's get a good definition of "love" as used in scripture

- Shall we stick to English?
 - No Greek or Hebrew svp.
- "Unselfish, loyal, and benevolent concern for the well-being of another."

(Holman Bible Dictionary)

- "...the most excellent way." (1 Cor 12:31)

Love of God

- About those definitions...
 - Would those apply more to love of God or to love of “our brother?”
- What does Moses mean by “love” in these scriptures...

Deuteronomy 10:12-13

“And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to **love** him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the Lord’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?”

Deuteronomy 11:1

“**Love** the LORD your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always.”

Deuteronomy 11:

¹³ So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today – to **love** the LORD your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul...

²² If you carefully observe all these commands I am giving you to follow – to **love** the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways and to hold fast to him...

Love of God

- “...you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

1. With a sincere love.

- Not in word only, but inwardly in truth and action.

Love of God

- “...you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”
 1. With a sincere love.
 2. With a strong love.
 - If God is “our all”, we must give him and only him our all.

Love of God

- “...you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”
 1. With a sincere love.
 2. With a strong love.
 3. With a superlative love.
 - We must love God above anyone or anything.

Love of God

- “...you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”
 1. With a sincere love.
 2. With a strong love.
 3. With a superlative love.
 4. With an intelligent love.
 - To love him with all our heart, we must see good cause to love him.

Love of God

■ “...you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

1. With a sincere love.
2. With a strong love.
3. With a superlative love.
4. With an intelligent love.
5. With an entire love.

■ “whatever you do, in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus”

Learning to love

- *Why* do we love God? (Question 3)
 - 1 John 4:19 (vs 4:7-5:4)
- *How* do we love God?
 - By revolutionizing our priorities
 - Nothing should be more important than “seeking God’s kingdom” (Matthew 6:33)
 - Observe Jesus, whose priorities were perfect.
 - Be obedient – God in center of our universe

1 John 4:7-5:4

- Love is from God. (v.7)
- Whoever does not love does not know God. (v.8)
- God is love. (v.8)
- How did God show his love? (v.9)
- Why should we love one another? (v.11)
- What is “love for God?” (5:3)
- Key verse: 20

1 Corinthians 13

■ Love is...

- Patient (4)
- Kind (4)
- Pleased with truth (6)

■ Question 4: ***Why is love greater than faith or hope?***
(1 Cor 13:13)

■ Love is not...

- Jealous (4)
- Boastful (4)
- Proud (4)
- Rude (5)
- Self-seeking (5)
- Easily angered (5)
- A record-keeper (5)
- Pleased with evil (6)
- A failure (8)

Questions 5 & 6

- It has been said that “Love for others, if unchecked by the truth, can cause us to be wishy-washy and even tolerant toward sin.” Do you agree with this, or disagree?
- What does John mean in 4:12, “...his love is made complete in us.”?

Question 7

- If we have difficulty loving other Christians, what might be the root of the problem? (4:19)
- Where's the line between legalism and love?
- Bonus question: *Why is it impossible to love God and yet hate one of the members of his family (1 John 4:20-21)?*

Next week...

- A Christian Life is *A Prayer-filled Life*