

Apr 12, 2015



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Love given reflects love received

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
Dear Jesus, help me to experience
Your love more deeply so that I
can share it with others. Em-
power me through Your Holy
Spirit so that I can glorify You.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
A new commandment I give to
you, that you love one another; as
I have loved you, that you also
love one another.

(Rev 1:18 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", Jan 22, 2015)

Series: THE SPIRIT COMES

UNIT: The Community of
Beloved Disciples

NEXT WEEK

Trust in God's Love

(1 John 4:13-5:5)

Love One Another

1 John 3:11-24

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson teaches us why as Christians, we should **Love One Another**. The study's aim is to have God's love be the controlling factor in our daily interactions with one another. The study's application is to make God's standard of loving one another our constant habit in life.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

Love must be expressed actively. Love isn't just words; it is self-giving actions. In teaching this, the apostle John echoes things he learned from Jesus and from the teachings of the Old Testament. There are five books in our New Testament that we attribute to the apostle John, who was one of the original 12 disciples (see Matthew 4:21; 10:2). Three of the five books are epistles (letters)—the ones we designate 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John. Church history strongly associates John with the church in Ephesus; tradition says he died in this great Greek metropolis in the AD 90s. The three letters were probably written in the region of Ephesus for churches in the area, and they date from the AD 80s or 90s. John would have been an elderly man at that time. The dignity of his age peeks through in 1 John, where he addresses his readers as his "little children" numerous times. The letter of 1 John addresses several problems within the original readers' church or churches. These problems included a denial of Jesus' bodily existence, a denial of sin in the lives of some, and a general lack of love for one another. False teachers were so bold that John referred to them as having "the spirit of the antichrist" (1 John 4:3; compare 2:18, 22); John wanted their influence eliminated. It was with a spirit of watchfulness combined with an overarching attitude of love that the apostle wrote 1 John. Its short message still speaks powerfully today.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

One of the major themes of the New Testament is love. Among the ancient Greeks there were several words for love. One word connoted romantic love, another family love, and another love between friends. There was, however, one word that was rarely used among the secular Greeks: agape. Appearing in its various forms about fifty times in 1 John, it most often is used for God's love for us and the love we are to have for one another. Compared to the other kinds of human love, agape is more likely to involve self-sacrifice. When asked about the greatest commandment, Christ quoted the Law, which declared that we are to love both God and our neighbor (Mark 12:28-34; Deut. 6:5; Lev. 19:18). When addressing the problem of misusing spiritual gifts in the Corinthian church, Paul established that love is the proper motivation for Christian service (1 Cor. 13). While love is one of the most talked about teachings of Christ, it may be one of the least practiced. The Lord Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

SUPPORTIVE LOVE (1 JOHN 3:11-15)

Supportive love despite unloving relationships (11-12)

Love despite unloving relationships by praying for your enemies (Matt 5:43-47)

Love despite unloving relationships by feeding your enemies (Prov 25:21-22)

Love despite unloving relationships by blessing those who persecute you (Rom 12:14)

Love despite unloving relationships by loving versus being rude, self-seeking and easily angered (1 Cor 13:5)

Love despite unloving relationships by loving and blessing instead of revenge (1 Peter 3:9)

Supportive love despite of the world's hatred (13)

Love in spite of the world hatred because the world hated Jesus (Matt 10:22)

Love in spite of the world hatred because great is our reward in heaven for being insulted and rejected because of our faith (Luke 6:22-23)

Love in spite of the world hatred because we don't belong to the world (John 15:18-19)

Love in spite of the world hatred because through Jesus we can overcome the world (John 16:33)

Love in spite of the world hatred because we have been given God's word (John 17:14-16)

Love in spite of the world hatred because Christians should try to live a godly life (2 Tim 3:12)

Supportive love that leads from death to life (14-15)

From death to life because of hearing God's word (John 5:24)

From death to life because of God's love and grace (Eph 2:4-5)

From death to life because of loving one another (1 John 2:9-11)

From death to life because of belief in Jesus (John 3:36)

From death to life because of being rescueded by Jesus (Col 1:12-14)

SACRIFICIAL LOVE (1 JOHN 3:16-18)

Sacrificial love that uses Jesus example of laying down His life (16)

Example of how to love enough to give life (John 15:12-14)

Example of risking life for others (Rom 16:3-4)

Example of willing to die for God's work (Phil 2:28-30)

Example of walking as Jesus did and love being complete in Him (1 John 2:5-6)

Example of being willing to deny self and lose life (Mark 8:34-35)

Example of willing to die for those who are not righteous (Rom 5:7-8)

Sacrificial love that helps those in need (17)

Helping those in need by being kind to the poor (Prov 19:17)

Helping those in need by sharing resources (Isa 58:6-7)

Helping those in need by supplying their needs out of our abundance (2 Cor 8:14-15)

Helping those in need by generously sharing (1 Tim 6:18)

Helping those in need by not forgetting to do good and sharing (Heb 13:16)

Helping those in need by supporting the helpless (James 1:27)

Sacrificial love that is accompanied by action (18)

Love accompanied by action through responding to daily opportunities (Matt 25:41-43)

Love accompanied by action through providing physical needs versus just wishing them well (James 2:14-17)

Love accompanied by action through putting God's word into practice (Luke 6:47-49)

Love accompanied by action through not just being hearing of the word, but doers (Ezek 33:30-32)

Love accompanied by action through being obedient (Matt 21:28-31)

SINCERE LOVE (1 JOHN 3:19-24)

Sincere love that results in confidence toward God (19-21)

Confidence toward God because God will be the judge (1 Cor 4:4-5)

Confidence toward God because of having Jesus as our High Priest (Heb 4:15-16)

Confidence toward God because of being cleansed by God (Heb 10:22)

Confidence toward God by continuously being in Jesus (1 John 2:28)

Confidence toward God because believing in the Name of Jesus (1 John 5:13-15)

Sincere love that is in obedience to God's commandments (22-23)

Obedience to God's commandments by remaining in Jesus' love (John 15:10)

Obedience to God's commandments by loving Jesus (John 14:15)

Obedience to God's commandments to obtain loving communion with God (John 14:23-24)

Obedience to God's commandments by offering ourselves as God's slave (Rom 6:16)

Obedience to God's commandments to show love for God (1 John 5:3)

Obedience to God's commandments by walking in obedient love (2 John 6)