
Biblical Love

Love is as much an attitude and as an action. In this study we will look more in detail at what biblical love is and how it applies to us. As we begin, read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 and write your thoughts about love.

The Bible has been called the greatest love letter ever written, and indeed, it is. We learn from the Bible that God is love and for Him to be capable of love means that He has eternally been in relationship as the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In the Bible, we see God's relentless pursuit of a relationship with people. Beginning with his relationship with Adam and Eve to establishing a relationship with Israel through the 10 commandments, judges, kings, and prophets. Finally, He sent His Son to demonstrate the ultimate love through sacrifice and giving us his Spirit so that we can love like him.

Where Does Love Come From?

The apostle John is known as the apostle of love. As we study this subject we will look mainly at the letters of John and his gospel. It is interesting to note that John and his brother James were named the sons of thunder (Mark 3:17) at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Equally interesting is how John refers to himself in his gospel as the disciple whom Jesus loved (John 13:23). A dramatic change occurred in John's life as he grew in his understanding of God. He went from a son of thunder to the apostle of love.

Read I John 4:7-21 and respond to the following questions? Remember to use the Discovery Learning Questions from the study on Teaching the Bible.

1. Where does love come from?

2. What (who) is love?

3. Why should we love?

Action and Attitude

As we have mentioned before, love is an action and an attitude. Take a moment and list some actions and attitudes that result from biblical love (see John 13:34, 15:9,13; 1 John 3:16,18; 2 John 5,6)

Actions

Attitudes

Tough Love

More times than not, we really have to work at love. And it is not always easy to love but we have seen that God wants us to do just that.

1. What did Jesus mean in Matthew 22:39 when he said to "love your neighbors?"

2. Write your opinion of Matthew 5:43-48 below.

3. What does John mean in 1 John 2:15-17 when he writes about the love of the world? Be specific in reference to this love.

Application

Take specific note of two or three areas mentioned under action and attitude and work on them this week.