

God's Love: Lesson 3

DAY 1

Have you ever heard a story about someone physically giving up his or her life for another person? How do you react when you hear these types of stories? What do you think drives someone to demonstrate that kind of love for another person?

When we think about how Christ loved us, we should stand amazed at what He did for us. There is nothing we did to deserve His love. In fact, we deserve quite the opposite.

We deserve death.

Open your Bible and read the passages we talked about this week: John 13:34-35 and 1 John 3:16-18. Many times we determine if and how we will show love to others based on what we decide they may deserve from us. But God (thankfully) doesn't work that way.

Something To Think About . . .

- How should these verses shape the way you love others? How does loving others this way show you are a follower of Christ?
 - Take a moment to reflect on these things and pray, asking God to empower you to love others as He loved you.
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DAY 2

Express your creativity today.

Using the camera on your phone or tablet, take 5 pictures that remind you of God's love for us. Edit them using your favorite photo editing app. Then, figure out a way to go the extra mile. Post them on your Tumblr page or on Facebook. Tweet them. Write a little message on them and send them to your friends.

Whatever you do, keep your eyes open for how God is showing His love to the world.

DAY 3

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. — 1 Corinthians 13:6

One of greatest known Bible passages regarding love is found in 1 Corinthians 13. Paul is talking to the church in Corinth. He told them that no matter how many spiritual things they think they're doing, if they aren't showing love, what they are doing is pointless.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Below make a list of all of the characteristics of godly love that Paul describes.

Now, go back and read through the list you've just written. As you read it, circle the three that are most difficult for you.

Why do you think these are so difficult for you?

Write each of these in the space below. Next to each, write an idea or two of how you can intentionally choose to display this action in your life.

It won't be easy, but if you trust God's power in you and don't give up, you may just find it gets easier to live these out!

DAY 4

Read this quote and take a moment to think about what it's saying:

"We are never nearer Christ than when we find ourselves lost in a holy amazement at his unspeakable love" — *John Owen*

What would it take for you to discover "holy amazement" at God's love?

(Why don't you try and answer that question today.)

DAY 5

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. — John 13:34-35

We're all known for something. Maybe it's your athletic ability. Or your sense of humor. Or your sense of fashion.

What are you known for?

Are you known for your love?

If that sounds cheesy, you might want to slow down a little. See, that's what Jesus said He'd like to see us known for. He wants to see you known for your love.

So, what if you made it a point to begin showing God's love to others? What would that look like? How would it take shape in your life? Maybe it seems like too tall of a task. But, the deal is that Jesus made it a point to give this command to His disciples in what turned out to be some of His last moments on this earth.

If it was important enough for Him to pass it along, isn't it important enough for you to try and live out?