

Mom2Mom
The Fruit of the Spirit
Love and Joy TEACHING
STUDENT NOTES

I. Love - God is *the source of love*

A. Devotion to God results in _____ to others. John 13:34-35; I Jn 4

B. The ability to love is given to us by God at _____ and is evidence of abiding in God. Romans 5:5; 1 John 4:9-11

We can only know how truly to love by watching God's example of loving us, best seen in the way that He provided a way for his wrath at our sin to be satisfied by sending Christ to die on our behalf. When we come to God through Christ's death on the cross we abide in God, which means we abide in love.

C. Love is the _____ for growth in all of the fruit. II Cor 5:14-15
Love is the motivation behind any Christian growth in our lives. (I Cor 13; Gal 5:22-23)

It is only because we love God and appreciate what He has done for us that we would be willing to continuously lay ourselves down to serve others. Our love for God that rose out of our thankfulness for forgiveness compels us to live for him and learn how to love others sacrificially the way He loves us.

D. Love is _____ giving of yourself to meet the needs of others
I John 4:7-14

E. Spiritual gifts practiced without love will be _____, distracting, and annoying. I Cor 13:1-4; I Cor 13:8

II. Understanding love's _____ can help us to live it out in practical moments.

I Cor 13:4-8a

A. Love is...

1. Patient – to suffer long, have forbearance; able to remain calm and not become annoyed when waiting for a long time or when dealing with problems or difficult people

2. Kind - having or showing a gentle nature and a desire to help others; wanting and liking to do good things and to bring happiness to others

B. Love is not...

- 1. Jealous** - intolerant of rivalry or unfaithfulness; hostile toward a rival or one believed to enjoy an advantage; vigilant in guarding a possession;(sometimes referred to in Scripture as Envious) feeling or showing unhappiness over someone else's good fortune and a desire to have the same, feeling or showing a desire to have what someone else has
- 2. Arrogant** (proud) having or showing the insulting attitude of people who believe that they are better, smarter, or more important than other people, exaggerating or disposed to exaggerate one's own worth or importance often by an overbearing manner, showing an offensive attitude of superiority
- 3. Easily Provoked** (easily angered) (irritable) becoming angry or annoyed easily

C . Love does... (Love is an ACTION verb not primarily a feeling)

- 1. Rejoices with the truth**
- 2. Always Protects** (Bears all things) to keep (someone or something) from being harmed, lost, etc.
- 3. Always Trusts** (Believes all things) to believe that someone or something is reliable, good, honest, effective, etc. to have confidence in (someone or something), to hope or expect that something is true or will happen
- 4. Always Hopes** (Hopes all things) to want something to happen or be true and think that it could happen or be true,
- 5. Endures all things** to experience pain or suffering for a long time, to deal with or accept something unpleasant, to undergo (as a hardship) especially without giving in, to regard with acceptance or tolerance, to remain firm under suffering or misfortune without yielding (always perseveres) to continue doing something or trying to do something even though it is difficult, to persist in a state, enterprise, or undertaking in spite of counter influences, opposition, or discouragement

D. Love does not...

- 1. Brag** arrogant talk or manner, a pompous or boastful statement (Boast) a statement in which you express too much pride in yourself or in something you have, have done, or are connected to in some way
- 2. Act Unbecomingly** to lack proper form which results in indecent actions; not attractive: not becoming does not dishonor others to cause someone or something to lose honor: to cause someone or something to no longer be respected, to bring shame on, to treat in a degrading manner rude not having or showing concern or respect for the rights and feelings of other people: not polite

- 3. **Seek Its Own** insists on its own way; is not self-seeking the act or practice of selfishly advancing one's own ends
- 4. **Take into account a wrong suffered** (resentful) (keep a record of wrongs) to take into account, reckon, or charge something to someone's account; having or showing a feeling of anger or displeasure about someone or something unfair
- 5. **Rejoice in unrighteousness/wrongdoing** (does not delight in evil)

E. **Love is evidence of spiritual _____**. I Cor 13:8-13

III. Joy is based on God's faithful promises--not our circumstances.

- A. **Joy is having a proper awareness of God's grace and favor in our lives.** Gal 5:22
- B. **Scripture teaches that _____ brings us joy.**
Luke 2:10-11; Luke 24:41; John 24:50-53; John 17:13
- C. **When we live our lives _____ in God's love his joy is in us, and our joy is full.** John 15:1-11
- D. **God delights to give us answered _____ so that our joy might be full.** John 16:24
- E. **_____ to the Lord deepens our joy and encourages others.**
Matthew 25:23; Heb 13:17; 3 John 1:4
- F. **We can have joy completely detached from _____.**
Philippians; Romans 8:28,29
- G. **The deepest experiences of joy are obtained by having an _____ perspective.** Matt. 13:44; Heb 10:32-36; I Peter 1:6-9

IV. Our joy is tied to our ability to deny ourselves for the benefit of others.

Romans 14:13-17; Rom 15:1, 7, 13

- A. **What we do and say for God's glory _____ other believers and gives them joy.** Acts 15:33
- B. **Trials and/or discipline from the Lord can produce joy.**
Heb 12:11; John 16:21; James 1:2-4; Heb 12:2
- C. **Joy is diminished when we sin but returned or increased when we _____.** Ps. 32:1-5

When we sin, we are presuming that God is withholding something good from us. I John 1:4 and 1:8-10; Luke 15:7

Optional Memory Verse

I Peter 1:8-9 *Though you have not seen him, **you love him**. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice **with joy that is inexpressible** and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

Homework

Assign [Worksheet #3](#). This should be read and completed this week and discussed next week. [A helpful resource](#) including the passage discussed in this worksheet as well as some commentary was published on www.faithlafayette.org/mom2mommember.

Table Discussion Questions (** is also a Large Group Discussion Question)

Application Questions for LOVE content

1. How does this Biblical explanation of love differ from previous definitions of love you have heard, believed, or experienced?
2. ** How does it help you to see what love is, is not, does, and does not do?
3. How can you see your spiritual maturity changing the way you love?

Application Questions for JOY content

4. ** How is it possible to have joy/gladness no matter what our circumstances are?
5. How have you seen your joy grow as you deny yourself to benefit others?
6. How is your joy tied to confession of sin?

Table Time Prayer Request Question:

In what specific ways can we ask Jesus to help you grow in Love and Joy this week?

Large Group Discussion Question

Table time discussion questions 2 and 4 will be used for large group discussion.