

Ephesians Series

Lesson #193

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Spiritual Skills

The Love God Has for Us

John 13:34, 35; 1 John 4:7–19



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

Joy/Inner Happiness/Tranquility of Soul
James 1:3; John 15:11: 17:13

**Personal Love
for God**
Deut. 6:5

**Biblical Love for All;
Christian Love for
Other Believers**
Lev. 19:18; Jn. 13:34, 35

**Occupation with
Christ**
Heb. 12:2; Php. 3:20

Personal Sense of our Eternal Destiny
Col. 3:24; 1 Pet. 1:4

Faith-Rest Drill
Prov. 3:5, 6

Grace Orientation
Eph. 2:8, 9
2 Pet. 3:18

**Doctrinal
Orientation**
2 Pet. 3:18

Walking by the Spirit/Filled by the Spirit
Gal. 5:16

Confession of Sin, 1 John 1:9

What we have learned so far:

- **Understood two types of love: “Biblical Love for All Mankind” and “Christian Love for One Another.”**
- **Christian love is developed as part of the fruit of the Spirit, and thus is not something we develop on our own.**
- **Love is the *sine qua non* of the Christian life, 1 Cor. 13:1–3.**
- **The characteristics of love are the opposite of self-centeredness and arrogance, 1 Cor. 13:4–7.**

An attempted definition of Christian love:

Love is a mental attitude toward others which desires the best for them according to the standards of God's integrity and thinks and acts toward them consistent with that desire and standards. Christian love is impossible apart from a walk by the Spirit and spiritual growth.

Previously we learned in 1 John

- 1. John is writing to believers to explain the differences between the believer who is living in fellowship with God and the believer who is not.**
- 2. “Abiding,” “Walking in the light,” “Knowing God,” “Walking as Christ walked,” are terms describing the believer who is obedient and maturing in His spiritual life and love for God.**
- 3. The believer who is not walking in fellowship, walking in partnership with God the Holy Spirit and maturing is disobedient, walking in darkness, and does not love God or His brother.**

Conclusion

“Hating his brother” means the one who hates must also be a believer.

- 1. We only have fellowship with one another as we are walking in the light.**
- 2. The one who loves his brother abides in the light.**
- 3. The one who hates his brother is in darkness, walks in darkness.**
- 4. The one who walks in darkness lies and is not doing the truth.**

What the Bible Teaches About

Understanding Biblical Love



What 1 John Teaches About

Love



Three passages develop Christian love in 1 John:

- 1. 1 John 2:3–11**
- 2. 1 John 3:9–18**
- 3. 1 John 4:7–19**

From 1 John 3:10–11 we learn:

a. The believer should love one another.

b. Some believers hate their brothers.

c. Believers who hate their brother are not practicing [*poieo*—“doing”] righteousness and are not of God, i.e., not abiding, not walking by the Spirit, not living in close partnership [fellowship] with God, not living as a child of God.

- d. Believers who are not “of God,” are not those who lost salvation or are unsaved, but they are not living in light of their new birth, their new identity in Christ.**

- e. The one who hates his brother is walking in darkness, is not doing righteousness, is in darkness, walks in darkness, is not doing the truth, and is not maturing in his love for God (1 John 1:6; 2:11).**

Important words:

- 1. “Abiding” describes the believer’s more intimate life of fellowship with God.**
- 2. “Knowing” God or Christ is not accepting the Gospel, but describes the growth of our knowledge of Him *after* we are saved.**
- 3. Christian love is produced as a result of our walking by the Holy Spirit, growing spiritually. It’s not automatic because we’re saved.**
- 4. To be “of God” or “of the devil” does not contrast saved or unsaved, but whom we are representing, which team we’re living for in those actions.**

Conclusion:

- 1. A believer who is not abiding, walking in the light, may hate his fellow Christian.**
- 2. The believer who hates his fellow Christian is living like a spiritually dead unbeliever.**
- 3. Biblical love is a product of walking by the Spirit (Gal. 5:22), abiding in Christ, and being filled by the Spirit. When a believer is not walking, abiding, being filled, i.e., not living in partnership, enjoying fellowship, then he will think, act, talk like the unbeliever—carnal death.**

4. Love is the product of walking by the Spirit. Without that walk, true biblical love will not develop.

5. The correlation then between the walk by the Spirit, abiding in Christ and in His Word, is foundational.

This is why Paul speaks of love developing with knowledge and discernment.

The third grouping is 1 John 4:7–19.

1 John 4:7, “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. [RD]

1 John 4:8, “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

- 1. Humans love because it is part of the image of God in us.**
- 2. God’s love is the source and metric for all “love.”**
- 3. Only a regenerate person can truly love as God loves.**
- 4. The one who does not love, has not grown to know God yet.**

1 John 4:9, “In this the love from God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

1 John 4:10, “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:11, “Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

- 1. God’s love initiates to the human race, not the other way.**
- 2. God’s love goes beyond thought to action, “He sent” His Son.**
- 3. The purpose is for living through Him, beyond simple eternal life.**

1 John 4:12, “No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.” [NKJV]

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John 1:18, “No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”

1 John 4:12, “No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been matured in us.” [NKJV]

- 1. Love is produced as a fruit of the Spirit, the result of walking by the Spirit, which is equivalent to abiding in Christ. Abiding = growing in intimate fellowship.**
- 2. God abides, makes His home, in us, as we enjoy the partnership with Him in spiritual growth.**
- 3. He matures His love in us as we demonstrate that love to one another.**

1 John 4:13, “By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.”

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1 John 3:24, “Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.” [NKJV]

1 John 4:14, “And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.

1 John 4:15, “Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

1 John 4:16, “And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.”

1 John 4:17, “Love has been matured among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. [RD]

1 John 4:18, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. [NKJV]

**1 John 4:19, “We love Him because He first loved us.”
[NKJV]**

1 John 4:17, “Love has been matured among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.” [RD]

1 John 2:28, “And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.”

1 John 4:18, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

**1 John 4:19, “We love Him because He first loved us.”
[NKJV]**