

THE LOVE OF GOD

The subject of God's Love is a huge topic to discuss! And just like we did on the topic of Salvation, we are going to learn about what God's Love is and what God's Love is not! Questions to ponder include: Can we even go to heaven without believing in God's Love and can we be accepted into eternity without walking in God's Love? Can we even exist without God's Love? We will answer these questions and more, but will only be scratching the surface on this amazing subject. So as you are going through this study go ahead and write down your thoughts and these will help you write your essay at the end of this chapter!

Let's start by defining three main types of love. The first one involves our feelings or our desires.

1. James 4:2 What is this name for the evil desire that comes from our feelings going unchecked and falling into our old sinful nature that we were all born with?

Answer: You _____ and do not have

To be clear, when you have sexual desires for your married spouse, that is not a sin. But when you have desires for anyone other than your spouse and meditate on them, this is a sin. By the way, you can also lust or want things in a selfish way. It's all about why you really love those things! Are you willing to share anything you have at a moment's notice if God so instructs?

2. Matthew 10:37 The second type of love involves feelings and actions we have toward one another either in friendships with family members or in our relationships with our Christian brothers and sisters. What four types of family members did Jesus say here that we were not supposed to love more than Him?

Answer: _____, _____, _____, _____

This kind of love is where we get the root word for Philadelphia from. It means to love with the meaning of having common interests with one another. It is caring for someone from having a sharing of ones lives as friends.

The third type of love is God's Love. It is called Agape in Greek. It is not really an emotion, but rather a decision that can be either a verb or a Noun. It is an act of giving that is determined by God, (not the recipient), to be what God deems as is best for the person(s) receiving the Love.

3. 1 John 4:10 We see in this verse how God initiates this action of love. What did He do to show this great action of Love?

Answer: Sent His _____ to be the propitiation for our sin

Propitiation means the appeasement or substitution for our sins so that we can become a child of God!

4. 1 John 4:7 Can we as Christians love with each other with this same type of Agape Love?

Answer: _____

5. 1 John 4:7 Why are we able to love one another in this manner?

Answer: Everyone who loves is _____ of God

Even though Love as an action word is a decision it should generate emotion in us, because it shows the compassion that God has for us! And it will produce all kinds of response in us as we will see in the remainder of this study!

6. 1 John 4:8 God's Love is an action, but is His Love also a noun?

Answer: _____

God's Love has many attributes and characteristics. Let's take a look at some of these awesome descriptions of God!

7. Galatians 5:22 What is Love called here?

Answer: A _____ of the Spirit

Fruit is a manifestation of the character of God that has been developed in us as Christians!

8. 1 John 4:7-8 Now that we know that God is Agape Love, what else do we discover that is an attribute of those who truly love God?

Answer: The one who is born of God _____ Him

So understanding that loving God is really intimacy with Him!

9. John 17:3 What is the term that Jesus uses in the present tense to describe knowing God and knowing Jesus Christ?

Answer: And this is _____

I remember a popular children's song that we sang in Sunday school called, "Jesus loves Me". If we can all just take hold of just one single word from the first verse, "Jesus loves me, this I KNOW, for the Bible tells me so". God, please help us to believe that Love!

10. Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus said that the two greatest commandments in the whole Bible were for us to love a particular person and a group of people. He went on to say that if we do this successfully we will be able to keep all of the Commandments. Who are this person and group of people that we are to love?

Answer: Love the _____ your God; Love your _____ as yourself

Notice that it is a Commandment, which means it is not an option for us as Christians!

11. John 14:15 Right after Jesus makes an amazing promise in verse 14, "if you ask anything in My Name, I will do it", He reminds us that if we really want to show that we love Him we will be doing what important thing?

Answer: We will _____ His Commandments

12. 1 John 3:10 Jesus says in several passages of scripture that we are to love each other. What does He say that a person is called that does not love his brother?

Answer: This person is an obvious child of the _____

13. Luke 6:27 What other classification of people does God command us to love?

Answer: Our _____

Love also has its rewards. Historically, it has been said that the Apostle John is the only Apostle of the original twelve that did not suffer a martyr's death. And he was also rewarded with being the author of the book of Revelation. The mother of Jesus, Mary, and Mary Magdalene were both the first to see Jesus right after He rose from the dead. Why? They were all at the scene of the Crucifixion at the time of Jesus' death, whereas, the rest of the disciples had run away in fear. John and the two Marys were willing to die because they had experienced the love of God in a very personal way!

14. Revelation 12:11 This testimony of God's love became a powerful motivator for a term that would be given to "last days" Christians, known as "Overcomers". What would these "Overcomers" be willing to do in regards to loving their own lives?

Answer: Not loving their own lives, even to the _____

15. 1 John 3:17-18 This Love should compel us to action! Rather than just talk about God's love, how else should we be demonstrating God's love?

Answer: In _____ and in truth

16. John 15:15 Because of the Love of God that is expressed in what Jesus has done for us what new term does God give us to define His relationship with us?

Answer: _____

17. 1 John 4:18 What is absolutely not found in Love?

Answer: _____

18. 1 John 4:18 Because fear involves punishment, what does Perfect Love do to fear?

Answer: Perfect Love _____ fear

When we truly believe in God's Love we won't act in fear no matter what the circumstances might be. We all know that this is not always an easy task! Just ask for God's grace to do it and He will!

We are now going to look at what is commonly known as the Love chapter in the bible:
1Corinthians 13.

19. 1 Corinthians 13:2 In order to demonstrate the importance of Love, it says that even if we have enough faith to remove mountains but don't have Love, what are we?

Answer: _____

Let's look at what Love is, what Love is not and what Love does and what Love doesn't do!

20. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Just fill in the blanks, and at the same time, ponder this beautiful rendition of God's wisdom on Love:

Answers: Love is _____; Love is _____; Love is not _____; Love does not _____; Love is not _____; Love does not act _____; Love does not seek its _____; Love is not _____; Love does not take into account a _____ suffered; Love does not rejoice in _____; Love rejoices with the _____; Love _____ all things; Love _____ all things; Love _____ all things; Love NEVER _____

21. 1 Corinthians 13:13 The Apostle Paul summarizes the Christian walk into three main attributes: Faith, Hope, and Love. But what ranking did he give to this attribute of Love?

Answer: The _____ of these is Love

We will end this study on one of my favorite verses in the Bible. God shows us His Love in this verse in an act that is beyond words to explain His amazing grace!

22. John 3:16 What did God do regarding His Son that created the opportunity for every one of us to experience eternal life with Him?

Answer: That He _____ His only begotten Son

There are many scriptures and stories in the Bible that demonstrate the Love of God, but here are just a few to get you started on your Essay: Romans 5:5; 1 John 2:15-18; 1 Peter 1:8; Luke 10: 30-37 (Good Samaritan); Luke 15:11-32 (Prodigal son)

Essay:

Answers:

1. Lust
2. Father, mother, son, daughter
3. Son
4. Yes
5. Born
6. Yes
7. Fruit
8. Knows
9. Eternal life
10. Lord, neighbor
11. Keep
12. Devil
13. Enemies
14. Death
15. Deed
16. Friends
17. Fear
18. Casts out
19. Nothing
20. Patient; Kind; Jealous; Brag; Arrogant; Unbecomingly; Own; Provoked; Wrong; Unrighteousness;
Truth; Bears; Hopes; Endures; Fails
21. Greatest
22. Gave