

Study Questions

WITNESS of CHARITY

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUE MEANING
of CHRISTIAN LOVE



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FOREWORD by Bishop EMERITUS F. B. HENRY

4 SeSSion Study

SeSSion #1

Read	Study Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Foreword ✓ Preface ✓ A Note to the Reader ✓ Appendix A ✓ Introduction 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What did you learn or what stood out for you from Bishop Henry's Foreword? 2. What did you learn or what stood out for you from the Preface? 3. What did you learn or what stood out for you from A Note to the Reader and Appendix A? 4. After reflecting on these three images (on the cover), how do <i>you</i> see these images as a <i>witness of charity</i>? Explain your answer. 5. In <i>your own words</i>, describe the interplay between these three images and charity. 6. What is the difference between being a <i>witness of</i> verses being a <i>witness to</i> something or someone?
Session #1 Approximate pages = 22	

SeSSion #2

Read	Study Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Chapter 1 CHARITY: THE CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE ✓ Chapter 2 CHARITY: IT IS AN ACT OF THE "Will" 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In <i>your own words</i>, define <i>cāritās</i> (or charity) from a Christian point of view? How is this word rooted in <i>agape</i>? 2. In <i>your own words</i>, define and explain <i>agape</i>, <i>eros</i>, and <i>philia</i>? 3. How are these three words (<i>agape</i>, <i>eros</i>, and <i>philia</i>) used within a biblical context? 4. In Chapter 1, we study that <i>cāritās</i> is rooted in <i>agape</i>. Taking this a step further, in Chapter 2, we now read that <i>cāritās</i>, rooted in <i>agape</i>, is an act of the will (i.e., willing the good of the other). In <i>your own words</i>, explain this progression and understanding. 5. The ultimate act of love (<i>cāritās</i> or charity) is to help others discover God! How would <i>you</i> explain this? 6. After reading Chapter 2, has <i>your</i> understanding of charity (<i>cāritās</i>) changed? Explain your answer.

<p>✓ Chapter 3 CHARITY: IT IS ETHICAL AND MORAL</p> <p>✓ Chapter 4 CHARITY AND ITS ORDER</p>	<p>7. After reading Chapter 3, in <i>your own words</i>, explain how charity (or <i>cāritās</i>) is ethical and moral.</p> <p>8. In <i>your own words</i>, explain how the ends do not justify the means.</p> <p>9. Using this foundational understanding (which we have built upon within the last three chapters), pick a specific contentious issue within society today, and apply and analyze this particular question/issue using <i>cāritās</i> (Christian love).</p> <p>10. What we do is not as important as why we do it! Explain this sentence in <i>your own words</i>.</p> <p>11. What we do must always be rooted in <i>Why</i> we do it! Explain this sentence in <i>your own words</i>.</p> <p>12. How does Christian love (<i>cāritās</i> or <i>agape</i>) differ from non-Christian love? Explain how this statement “Love one another as I have loved you” is literally bound to Christ Jesus Himself.</p>
Session #2 Approximate pages = 35	

Session #3

Read	Study Questions
<p>✓ Chapter 5 CHARITY AND THE LAW</p> <p>✓ Chapter 6 CHARITY AND THE GOOD SAMARITAN MODEL</p>	<p>1. The law is rooted in Christ Jesus Himself (in His <i>agape</i>); therefore His love is the key that unlocks the law! Explain this in <i>your own words</i>.</p> <p>2. After reading Chapter 5, do <i>you</i> now view the law differently? Have <i>you</i> now rediscovered the law in the Person of Jesus our Master? Explain your answer.</p> <p>3. The law has no jurisdiction over us, for in Christ Jesus we are freed from the law! Explain this in <i>your own words</i>.</p> <p>4. Moving forward in your Christian journey how do you base your entire life strictly on God’s <i>agape</i> (not on anything of your own doing)?</p> <p>5. After reading Chapter 6, explain in <i>your own words</i> how the Good Samaritan model is a way of life?</p> <p>6. How can <i>you</i> avoid <i>politicizing</i> the love you are called to give your neighbour?</p> <p>7. What can we do to get ourselves to Heaven? Are <i>you</i> content in answering this question with: “nothing”? Explain your answer.</p> <p>8. At the end of Chapter 6, seven practical issues are stated. Explain them in <i>your own words</i>. Which one stood out the most for <i>you</i>?</p>
Session #3 Approximate pages = 35	

SeSSion #4

Read	Study Questions
✓ Chapter 7 CHARITY AND MERCY	1. In our temporal life <i>agape</i> is revealed as mercy. How do we show this mercy towards others? Does <i>your</i> answer demonstrate itself in <i>your</i> own life? 2. In <i>your own words</i> , explain the relationship between mercy and <i>cāritās</i> (Christian love)? 3. After reading Chapter 7, has <i>your</i> understanding of mercy changed? Explain your answer. 4. In <i>your own words</i> , explain the difference between mercy and grace. 5. After reading Chapter 7, has <i>your</i> understand God's justice changed? Explain your answer.
✓ Chapter 8 CHARITY: THE ULTIMATE SOURCE	6. God is love! After reading Chapter 8, has <i>your</i> understanding of this statement changed? Explain your answer. 7. After reading Chapter 8, how would <i>you</i> now root <i>your love</i> (your Christian love), in Him (in His <i>agape</i>)?
✓ Conclusion	8. We asked the question: What is the difference between being a <i>witness of</i> verses being a <i>witness to</i> something or someone? After reading this book, has your answer changed? Has your disposition and/or worldview changed? 9. Going forward, how are <i>you</i> now going to rest (your entire life) in His <i>agape</i> for you?
Session #4 Approximate pages = 38	

A Few Suggestions

- Study Format: these sessions can be done as a group (preferably), or individually.
 - Preferably, these sessions should be done in-person.
 - Sessions can be altered or changed to fit your group or individual study (e.g., you can group some sessions, making it into two, six, or eight study sessions).
 - These sessions don't need to be formal; feel free to meet with some friends.
- Start session with an opening prayer (can be taken from the book); and/or with an opening hymn.
 - Start session with a brief summary or summary discussion (within the main group).
 - Depending on the size of the group, create smaller groups within the group.
 - Assign a leader/facilitator to each of the smaller groups.
- Discuss questions in a respectful, thoughtful, and methodical manner; keeping in mind, that the primary focus of the discussions are to understand the true meaning of Christian love and to become *Witness of Charity*.
 - End session with a closing prayer (can be taken from the book).