

UNIT 11

HOLINESS AND LOVE

Hymn Part 5

CHRIST'S LOVE AND HOLINESS

*Jesus "became obedient unto death,
even the death of the cross."*

PHILIPPIANS 2:8



DAY 1

Reconciling Holiness and Love

DAY 2

The Character and Behavior of Holiness

DAY 3

Love Is a Verb, Part 1

DAY 4

Love Is a Verb, Part 2

DAY 5

Love as a Noun

Why You Will Find This Unit Helpful

You will understand that Christ exemplifies holiness and love. Christ desires that His disciples be like Him in these qualities. This unit will help you know how to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to be made holy and to practice love from your inner being.

Lifelong Goal

In Christ you will be set apart from the world as holy. You will demonstrate Christlike love in your relationship to God, His people, and all humanity.

Summary of God's Work in You

Christ's holiness within you enables the spiritual quality of separation from the world. God's goal is your maturity. Your growth in holiness can be measured only by Christ's righteousness. Christ makes this possible in His office as Priest. Christ chose you.

Christ's love in you facilitates the spiritual quality of grace. God's goal is your oneness with Him and His people. Your growth in love can be measured only by Christ's sacrifice. Christ enables your love in His role as Bridegroom. Christ purchased you.

Holiness and love complement and strengthen each other. Christ's example is your goal in holiness and love. Christ brings together these qualities in you in His role as the Wisdom of God. Christ is perfecting you.

Unit Learning Goals

- You will understand the way holiness and love work together.
- You will understand the characteristics and behaviors of holiness.
- You will demonstrate your dedication to the Lord.
- You will know and begin to practice 15 behaviors of Christlike love.
- You will understand two ways you can aid the process of becoming like Christ and having love as a part of your inner being.

What You Will Do to Develop Holiness and Love

- You will examine your separation from the world and take necessary steps to display holiness in relation to the world.
- You will dedicate your body to the Lord to be used only for His purpose.
- You will begin seeking to perform at least 15 actions that demonstrate the Christlike love described in 1 Corinthians 13.
- You will review ways you can practice the principles of yearning and identification with Christ.

Scripture Memory Verses

"As he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation. Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy" (1 Pet. 1:15-16).

Lifelong Helps Related to This Unit

Christlike Virtues—*Love* (pp. 233–34)

Beatitudes—*Hungry* and *Persecuted* (pp. 246, 250)

The Mind of Christ Cards Related to This Unit

5B. Unit 11: Scripture Memory—1 Peter 1:15-16

13. Love Is — 1 Corinthians 13

23. A-4: Hungry

27. B-4: Persecuted

Optional DVD Messages by T. W. Hunt

- Session 5, Part 1: His Holiness and Love
- Session 5, Part 2: His Holiness and Love
- Session 7: The Crucifixion

DAY 1

RECONCILING HOLINESS AND LOVE



Today's Bible Meditation


"[He] became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:8).
 "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Cor. 7:1).

Name of Christ for Today

He That Sanctifieth
 (Heb. 2:11)

Prayer to Begin the Lesson

Holy Lord, I am not worthy to stand in Your presence. I once again need Your cleansing. Because You are love, I plead for Your mercy and forgiveness. Wash me so that I can be clean and spotless before You. You are the One who makes me holy, who sanctifies me. Make me holy as You are holy. Teach me to love as You love. Amen.


-  1. Begin today's lesson by reading the Bible verses and the name of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer on the left margin to begin your study.

Following a conference in Ohio, a man asked me a difficult question: "In the Old Testament God is so terrifyingly holy that He seems distant, but in the New Testament God is so warm and loving that He seems to be trying to get close to us. Those seem to be opposite pictures. Can those two opposites be reconciled?"

Yes, they can. God is infinite and unchanging. Because our human minds cannot comprehend infinity, God reveals to us various aspects of His nature. Sometimes these aspects appear to be opposites. We cannot begin to understand the nature of God without accepting that He can have holiness and love at once.


God's holiness is a wonderful yet dreadful fact. In our sinful human condition we find His holiness alarming. However, God is love, and "God so loved the world" (John 3:16). God took great pains to reach us with His love. God's love is a fact. Holiness causes us to fear God, while His compassion and love draw us close. These attributes exist in the same magnificent Person.

The clearest example of God's holiness and love is what God did at Calvary. Nothing shows us God's holiness like Calvary. Because of sin, nothing less than Christ's shed blood on the cross could satisfy the requirements of God's awesome holiness. Nothing shows us how great God's love is like the sacrifice of Christ. The cross shows us how far God was willing to go to reach us in His infinite love.

-  2. What event gives us the clearest picture of God's awesome holiness and His compelling love? Check one.

- ☐ Destruction of the world with the flood during Noah's time
- ☐ The birth of Christ at Bethlehem
- ☐ The crucifixion and death of Christ on the cross
- ☐ The giving of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

We risk irreverence and loss of perspective if we do not acknowledge the holiness of God. We miss God if we fail to see the immense love revealed through Jesus Christ. God's holiness and love were best demonstrated in the death of Christ on the cross.

-  3. Because Christ's love and holiness are most clearly seen in His crucifixion, we want to give you an assignment to complete during the coming weeks. Your group leader may have announced plans to complete this activity as a large group. If not, consider viewing session 7, "The Crucifixion," from *The Mind of Christ* DVD messages.

Hymn Part 5: Christ's Holiness and Love

The fifth part of the hymn in Philippians 2 focuses on Christ's holiness and love as they are demonstrated in His sacrificial death on the cross. Jesus "became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:8).

Not only is God holy and loving, but He expects holiness and love from us as well. The mind of Christ will manifest both characteristics.

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love (Eph. 1:4).

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering (Col. 3:12).

The Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints (1 Thess. 3:12-13).

Perfecting Holiness in Love


Only in the exemplary life of Jesus Christ do we see a perfect union of these two seemingly opposite attributes, holiness and love. Jesus' inner life was perfectly separated from the world: "I am not of this world" (John 8:23). No worldliness was ever seen in His actions or speech.

But Jesus came to the world to demonstrate perfect love. He became a friend of sinners. The outer members of Jesus' body served an inner purpose: His feet went, His tongue told, His hands healed. Jesus' inner life was separated from worldliness for the outer life to accomplish God's aims in love. The two poles, holiness and love, instead of being contradictory, are necessary to reveal the complete nature of God.

The holiness of God requires justice, yet His love consistently shows mercy and forgiveness. The perfect compounding of justice and mercy is seen in Christ. Holiness and love, which seem to be opposite, actually work together to reinforce each other.

Holiness will manifest itself in sanctification and righteousness. We derive our principles from holiness. Love cultivates holiness and renders it possible. Love manifests itself in grace and mercy. Holiness modifies love and prevents perversion. The mind of Christ cultivates both poles so that they are developed equally. If one or the other is neglected, perversion develops. Only wisdom can make holiness and love work together in perfect balance. In Christ we are holy. In Christ we are love. We are in a process of perfecting that holiness and love.


The holiness of God requires justice, yet His love shows mercy and forgiveness.

-  4. Fill in the blanks below with *holiness* or *love*. Check your answers in the previous paragraph.

We derive our principles from _____.

_____ cultivates _____ and renders it possible.

_____ modifies _____ and prevents perversion.


-  5. Which of the following words are related to holiness, and which are related to love? Draw a line to match the word on the left with the related words on the right.

Holiness

Love

- a. In the world
- b. Separate from the world
- c. Mercy
- d. Righteousness
- e. Sanctification
- f. Grace
- g. Justice

(Answers: holiness—b, d, e, g; love—a, c, f)

-  6. Conclude your study time in prayer for God to continue His work of making you holy as He is holy. Ask Him to enable you to love as He loves.


DAY 2 THE CHARACTER AND BEHAVIOR OF HOLINESS



Today's Bible Meditations

"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God. Be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless" (2 Pet. 3:11-12,14).


Name of Christ for Today
Holy One of God
(Luke 4:34)


-  1. Begin today's lesson by reading the Bible verses and the name of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer on the following page to begin your study.

Men of the Bible saw God's holiness and reacted to it with terror. God told Moses to take off his shoes in the presence of holiness, and Moses hid his face (see Ex. 3:5-6). When Isaiah saw God's holiness, he cried, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips" (Isa. 6:5, NASB). When Simon Peter realized the awesome power of Jesus, he pleaded, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" (Luke 5:8). When you come into the presence of Holy God, your unworthy and sinful condition will clearly be evident.

Character of Holiness

Purity. One of the most striking attributes of holiness is purity: "Depart, depart, go out from there, touch nothing unclean; go out of the midst of her, purify yourselves, you who carry the vessels of the Lord" (Isa. 52:11, NASB). Even Jesus' enemies complimented one aspect of His purity when they said while trying to trap Him with trick questions: "Teacher, we know that ... You are not partial to any" (Luke 20:21, NASB). How could Jesus be so pure that even His enemies had to acknowledge it? Because of His loving devotion to His Father's way! Purity is a quality of holiness, but Jesus' purity results from love for His Father!

-  2. What is one characteristic of holiness? _____


-  3. In your own words define *purity*.

Godliness. “What sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God?” (2 Pet. 3:11-12, NASB). Jesus’ godliness can be seen in the reverence of His noble behavior during His trial. As the priests “began to accuse Him harshly” (Mark 15:3, NASB) of many charges, Pilate tried to get Jesus to answer His accusers. “But Jesus made no further answer; so that Pilate was amazed” (Mark 15:5, NASB). This is only one of four magnificent silences in Jesus’ trial. The silences were a consequence of His dignity and reverence.

When Jesus answered, however, His mind was quick, and His answers were appropriate (see Matt. 26:64; Luke 22:67; John 18:20,36; 19:11). Jesus held His tongue when occasion demanded. As other occasions required, Jesus gave immediate and fitting answers. How could He demonstrate such dignity and presence of mind that even a pagan governor was amazed? Throughout His life, including the duress of the trials, Jesus had a loving reverence for His Father. We see dignity, reverence, and godliness in Jesus’ trials. Behind them all was unfailing love!


Prayer to Begin the Lesson


Holy One of God, You will come again and judge the world. You have already told us that the evil world will be destroyed by fire. Because that is true, I want to live my life in holiness, godliness, and purity. I long for Your return, Lord Jesus. Enable me to live an exemplary life until You come. Amen.

 4. What is a second characteristic of holiness? _____

 5. In your own words define *godliness*. _____

Glorious. Holiness is also glorious. Moses asked, “Who is like Thee among the gods, O Lord? Who is like Thee, majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders?” (Ex. 15:11, NASB). Jesus glorified His Father. At the end of His life, Jesus prayed, “I have glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which Thou hast given Me to do” (John 17:4, NASB). We have already seen several times that Jesus always sought the glory of His Father. In all He did, Jesus practiced a loving exaltation of His Father. Once again, in holiness of character we see love behind the scenes, working to produce holiness.

 6. What is a third characteristic of holiness? _____

 7. Read Psalm 111:1-9 below and circle the words related to holiness and love.

Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation. The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever. He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the Lord is gracious and full of compassion. He hath given meat unto them that fear him: he will ever be mindful of his covenant. He hath shewed his people the power of his works, that he may give them the heritage of the heathen. The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness. He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.

Behavior of Holiness

Separate. Holiness not only has a certain character but also maintains a certain behavior. It separates itself from the world. The word *holy* means *set apart*. "If a man cleanses himself from these things [ignoble purposes], he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work" (2 Tim. 2:21, NASB).

8. What is one behavior of holiness? _____

Dedicate. Closely related to holiness is dedication. The word *dedicate* means *to set something aside for one use only*. Solomon dedicated the temple: "Behold, I am about to build a house for the name of the Lord my God, dedicating it to Him" (2 Chron. 2:4). In this verse Solomon stated that he was dedicating the temple for burning incense, for setting out the consecrated bread, and for offering sacrifices. Later Isaiah summarized the temple's purpose as a "house of prayer" (Isa. 56:7). The temple was dedicated for one purpose: to relate people to God through prayer. This was why Jesus had to drive the money changers from the temple. The temple had been dedicated to be a house of prayer, but the priests had made it a den of robbers (see Mark 11:17).

9. What is a second behavior of holiness? _____

Sanctify. A word closely related to *dedication* is *sanctification*. To dedicate is to set apart; to sanctify is to render holy. At salvation we are sanctified; we are holy. The Bible sometimes speaks of sanctification as an event (see 2 Thess. 2:13; at salvation we become a saint, or *a holy one*) but sometimes as a process also (see 1 Thess. 4:3). Therefore, we are holy at salvation, and we also grow in holiness (see 2 Cor. 7:1).

10. What is a third behavior of holiness? _____

Jesus prays for our sanctification. In the greatest of all intercessory prayers, Jesus prayed, "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth" (John 17:19). Jesus continues to practice a loving cultivation of our holiness. Because Jesus loves us, He wants us to be holy. Once again, holiness and love cannot be separated.

Because Jesus loves us, He wants us to be holy. Once again, holiness and love cannot be separated.

Several years ago, when I began to realize the enormous action Jesus had taken in sanctifying Himself so that I could be sanctified, I felt led to dedicate my body to Him. I went into my prayer closet and dedicated my body parts to the Lord one by one. For example, I told God, "I dedicate my mouth to you. It will speak only what is wholesome and what You would approve of. My tongue will serve Your purposes." In this way I dedicated to the Lord my mind, my hands, my feet, and even my stomach. I have had to guard what I put into my stomach since that day!

We urge you to do the same thing. Dedicate your body and its parts to the Lord Jesus. Just as Jesus was dedicated to the Father, so we must be dedicated to Him. Our body must never serve any purpose except those of its Creator. Dedicating our body is one way to ensure that our entire being is given to God. For the rest of your life, then, you must always remember that you are holy, set apart.

11. If you are willing to dedicate your body part by part to the Lord Jesus, begin to do that now. Do not take this assignment lightly. You may want to prepare yourself and plan a special time for this dedication. If you are not willing, ask the Lord to make you willing. Ask Him to help you identify what is standing in the way of your willingness. Spend time in prayer about the dedication of your body to the Lord for His purposes. Once you have dedicated your body to the Lord, write and date an entry in the right margin.

DAY 3 LOVE IS A VERB, PART 1

1. Begin today's lesson by reading the Bible verses and the name of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer to begin your study.
2. As you study Christlike love, you'll find that several study aids have been prepared for you.
- Review The Mind of Christ Cards 12 and 13 during the next few days.
 - Turn to and mark for future use the Lifelong Help on *Love* under the Christlike Virtues on page 233–34.

First Corinthians 13 is often referred to as the love chapter of the Bible. The New Testament uses several Greek words for *love*. The focus of 1 Corinthians 13 is *agape*. *Agape* is a Godlike love that is holy. *Agape* love is seen as an act of the will and is not based on feelings or circumstances. First Corinthians 13:4-7 describes 15 characteristics of love. In Greek all 15 characteristics are verbs. Shown in the chart below, each of these characteristics of love produces a measure of holiness.

CHARACTERISTICS OF CHRISTLIKE LOVE

Love	Holiness
Suffers long	Holy relationships
Is kind	Holy purposes
Does not envy	Holy heart
Does not brag	Holy speech
Is not arrogant	Holy service
Does not act unbecomingly	Holy behavior
Does not seek its own	Holy desires
Is not provoked	Holy temperament
Does not take into account a wrong	Holy bookkeeping
Does not rejoice in unrighteousness	Holy conscience
Rejoices in the truth	Holy mind
Bears all things	Holy stability
Believes all things	Holy values
Hopes all things	Holy expectations
Endures all things	Holy sacrifice

Date

On the above date
I dedicated my body
to the Lord for His
purposes alone.

Signed



Today's Bible Meditation


"Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Cor. 13:4-7, NASB).

Name of Christ for Today


Him That Loved Us and Washed Us from Our Sins in His Own Blood (Rev. 1:5-6)

Prayer to Begin the Lesson

Loving Lord Jesus, You have loved me with a perfect love. You have washed and forgiven me of my sins by Your own sacrifice on the cross. I love You for first loving me. Teach me to love as You loved. Amen.

-  3. Turn to the Lifelong Help on Love (pp. 233–34) and read the section “Showing Love.” The assignment to practice the behaviors of love will be long-term. Pray now and ask the Lord to enable you to love with this Godlike love. Begin to watch for opportunities and keep a record of your actions. Ask the Lord to keep you from a spirit of pride or self-righteousness. Ask God to use this assignment to develop your capacity to love as He loves.

On many occasions Jesus demonstrated through His actions and teachings the kind of *agape* love found in 1 Corinthians 13. The examples that follow illustrate each of the characteristics of Christlike love Paul listed.

-  4. As you read the following seven behaviors of love, think of a way you might display that behavior. Write it in the margin. For instance, beside “Love Suffers Long” you might write, “When I am tempted to lose my temper” as a time when you could show that kind of love.

Love Suffers Long (Holy Relationships)

The verb used here means *to suffer long*. We would probably use the word *patient*. Jesus was remarkably long-suffering with the disciples; they were slow to comprehend His mind. Look how Jesus related to James and John:

When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, “Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them” (Luke 9:54-56).

*I can show that love
suffers long by:*

Obviously, James and John were demonstrating a mindset contrary to that of Christ. Jesus rebuked them. His relationship to the disciples constantly had to wait on their comprehension of His character and intentions. The real root in Jesus’ long-suffering was the fact that He maintained holy relationships.

Love Is Kind (Holy Purposes)

After Jesus fed the five thousand (itself an act of kindness), He sent the disciples across the lake while He went up to a mountain to pray. While on the mountain:

He saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them; and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them. But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out: For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, “Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid” (Mark 6:48-50).

*I can show that love
is kind by:*

Jesus’ kindness demonstrated holiness of purpose. All Christ’s intentions were holy and loving.

Love Does Not Envy (Holy Heart)

Jesus owned nothing, and He did not seek material things. "Jesus said unto him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head'" (Luke 9:58).

Not envying is an indication of a holy heart. Envy is unholy. Self-denial for right purposes can be holy.

*I can show that love
does not envy by:*

Love Does Not Brag (Holy Speech)

Love does not brag because it is more other-conscious than self-conscious. The central consciousness of love centers on others. Jesus said, "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me" (John 5:30).

*I can show that love
does not brag by:*

Love cannot brag because its speech is holy. Here holiness cooperates with love.

Love Is Not Arrogant (Holy Service)

We see many times in the Bible that Jesus' life was lowly:

Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, "Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:42-45).

*I can show that love
is not arrogant by:*

Love actively seeks holy service. Arrogance is unholy.

Love Does Not Act Unbecomingly (Holy Behavior)

Jesus was to be the teacher of the day in Nazareth at the beginning of His great Galilean ministry. Jesus read to His listeners the prophecy of Isaiah 61:1-2, a prophecy of the activity of the Messiah. After the reading of the scroll, Jesus began His teaching by announcing that He was fulfilling the prophecy. The townspeople were offended:

All they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, and rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong. But he passing through the midst of them went his way (Luke 4:28-30).

Jesus certainly had the power to do what we find among the mythical gods in other world religions—to kill His enemies, to disappear, or to fly away. But Luke tells us that Jesus simply passed through the crowd and went on His way. Do you see the elegance in this behavior? Jesus always exhibited a royal dignity that set His nobility apart from that of any other man or so-called god. We see in all Jesus' actions uncommon grace and glory. Love always maintains holy behavior.


*I can show that love
does not act
unbecomingly by:*

*I can show that love
does not seek its own by:*

Love Does Not Seek Its Own (Holy Desires)

After the Lord fed the five thousand, the crowd tried to make Him king. But “when Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone” (John 6:15).

Many things were within His reach, but Jesus never reached for them. Love cannot seek its own position or pleasure. Love has only holy desires.

 Conclude this lesson by asking the Lord to fill you with His love and presence so that you will express that love in your relationships with others. Be specific in asking God to enable you to demonstrate these characteristics of love.



DAY 4

LOVE IS A VERB, PART 2

Today's Bible Meditation

“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.


Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another” (1 John 4:8-11).

Name of Christ for Today


The Lamb of God
(John 1:29)

Prayer to Begin the Lesson

*Lamb of God, You clearly
showed Your love for me by
paying the death penalty for
my sins. Because I have been
so greatly loved, I want to love
others with Your kind
of love. Live in me and love
through me so that others
will experience Your
redeeming love. Amen.*

 1. Begin today's lesson by reading the Bible verses and the name of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer to begin your study.

Today we will continue our look at love as Paul described it in 1 Corinthians 13. The following eight behaviors of love were true of Christ and His teachings.

 2. As you read the following eight behaviors of love, think of a way you might display that behavior. Write it in the margin. For instance, beside “Love Is Not Provoked” you might write, “When someone does something to me and I want to get even” as a time when you could show that kind of love.

Love Is Not Provoked (Holy Temperament)

Jesus spoke an amazing warning to Judas one year prior to his betrayal: “Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?” (John 6:70).

Jesus continued to walk with Judas that year. Yet the Lord never demonstrated spite toward Judas. Even Jesus' last words to Judas were calm: “What you do, do quickly” (John 13:27, NASB). How could Jesus maintain such calmness in the face of monstrous treason? Love is not easily angered, because it has a holy temperament.

Love Does Not Take into Account a Wrong (Holy Bookkeeping)

Jesus' family thought He was out of His mind: “When His own people heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, ‘He has lost His senses’” (Mark 3:21).

Jesus' brothers did not believe in Him, and their unbelief continued throughout His ministry (see John 7:2-5). Yet 1 Corinthians 15:7 tells us that Jesus made a special, private resurrection appearance to His disbelieving brother James to bring him to faith. Apparently, that appearance was enough to satisfy another brother, Jude (the author of the epistle). Jesus did not take into account the wrongs of His half brothers. Our bookkeeping needs to be holy.

Love Does Not Rejoice in Unrighteousness (Holy Conscience)

Because of Annas's control of the Jewish priesthood, a corrupt procedure of selling animals for sacrifice was instituted in the temple courtyard. Pilgrims from other countries were not allowed to offer foreign currency in the temple. They could give only Jewish shekels. Annas instituted a system of exchanging money for these foreign Jews that probably made his family inordinately wealthy. Jesus drove the money changers from the temple because love cannot rejoice in unrighteousness: "When he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables" (John 2:15).

Love cannot rejoice when it finds evil in control. Holy love casts out the money changers. The kind of divine love God wants us to have is holy. Jesus' conscience was holy.

*I can show that love
is not provoked by:*

*I can show that love does
not take into account
a wrong by:*

Love Rejoices in the Truth (Holy Mind)

After upbraiding the cities that rejected His works, Jesus spoke of His disciples: "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes" (Matt. 11:25).

Jesus was delighted with their recognition of truth about His person and works.

*I can show that love
does not rejoice in
unrighteousness by:*

Love Bears All Things (Holy Stability)

One of the clearest examples of holy stability is Jesus' dealings with Simon Peter. No other disciple failed and succeeded so often. At times Peter demonstrated remarkable insight (see Matt. 16:16; Luke 5:8), but his failures were monumental (see Matt. 16:21-22; 26:69-74). Knowing that Peter would deny Him, Jesus said, "I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren" (Luke 22:32).

Jesus often dealt with Peter's awkwardness and rewarded him each time he demonstrated insight. Love does not come and go. Love has a holy stability.

*I can show that love rejoices
in the truth by:*

Love Believes All Things (Holy Values)

Jesus had enormous faith in the people He chose. Perhaps the most questionable of all these strange choices was His selection of the despised tax collector Zacchaeus: "When Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house" (Luke 19:5).

Because Jesus believed in his holy potential, Zacchaeus totally repented. Most of us would not have selected the unpredictable persons Jesus chose. Often we choose high and mighty people. Jesus, however, did not choose as the world does. Jesus had holy values.

*I can show that love
bears all things by:*

*I can show that love
believes all things by:*

Love Hopes All Things (Holy Expectations)

Jesus' anticipation that the unstable Simon would become Peter, the rock, indicates the kind of hope He wants us to have: "I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18).

Love is not always required to think the best of a person's current condition. Love sees the full development of its own cultivation and knows that God's work in the individual will be completed. Love has holy expectations.


*I can show that love
hopes all things by:*

Love Endures All Things (Holy Sacrifice)

The outstanding example of endurance in all the Bible is the fact that the mighty power of God did not interfere with Jesus' finishing the work of the cross: "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matt. 26:53). Jesus finished what He began. Jesus endured the most vigorous agony any human being has ever suffered. Love perseveres because only perfect love makes a holy sacrifice.


*I can show that love
endures all things by:*

All these characteristics complement one another. A love that behaves royally rejoices in the truth. A person who believes all things also hopes all things. The various operations of perfect love enhance one another. The deeper we get into the mind of Christ, the more we see wholeness and unity.

-  3. Conclude your study in prayer. Once again ask the Lord to fill you with His love and presence so that you will express that love in your relationships with others. Be specific in asking God to enable you to demonstrate these characteristics of love.

DAY 5

LOVE AS A NOUN


-  1. Begin today's lesson by reading the Bible verses and the name of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer to begin your study.

The most significant statement in the Bible about love does not deal with the outwardly observable actions of love but with the essence of God Himself. First John 4:8,16 tells us, "God is love." Love is the essential characteristic of God's being. Ultimately, if we are to have the mind of Christ, God must be able to say of us, "They are love." Love will be the essential characteristic of our inner being.

When I tried to apply this test to myself by means of the Holy Spirit's examination, I discovered that I could more easily *carry out* the actions of love (see 1 Cor. 13) than I could *be* love. For example, I find it easy to behave according to 1 Corinthians 13 toward the unlovely. Most of us can *do* more easily than we can *be*.

Love Is a Fruit of the Spirit

Love as a verb is an act of the will. Love as a noun is a fruit of the Spirit.

-  2. Which of the following statements relate to *love* as a verb, and which relate to *love* as a noun? Write *verb* or *noun* in front of the related statements


_____ Love is an act of the will.

_____ Love is a fruit of the Spirit.

_____ Love requires being.

_____ Love requires doing.

Love as a verb is an act of the will and requires doing. Love as a noun is a fruit of the indwelling Spirit and requires being. Any Christian is capable of exercising loving actions through the will. Fortunately, the Bible's commands are usually in the form of a verb (see John 13:34; 15:12,17; 1 John 3:11; 4:7,21). Descriptions of love are usually in terms of action (see 1 Cor. 13:4-7; 1 John 2:9-11; 3:16-18; 4:7-12, 16-21). Perhaps this is because regardless of the development of the noun-fruit within us, we can obey the commands to carry out the various operations as an act of the will. Obedience does not depend on feelings. The will can overcome feelings. We can always obey. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

-  3. Which of the following is the reason for us to carry out the actions of love? Check one. ☐ Feelings ☐ Obedience

We are to act like Christ in obedience. More than just acting like Christ, however, we are to become like Christ. We can aid this process of becoming if we understand more about the nature of *love*. Love is a fruit, a product of the indwelling Holy Spirit. We entirely depend on the Spirit to produce love in us. But this process of becoming love will not progress without prayer.



Today's Bible Meditation

"If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him" (1 John 4:12-14,16).

Name of Christ for Today

The Propitiation for Our Sins (1 John 2:2)

Prayer to Begin the Lesson

Jesus, You are the propitiation for my sins. You have done something for me that I could not do for myself. But it cost You great suffering and death on the cross. I cannot comprehend that depth of love. I am overwhelmed by how much You love me. I feel loved. I love You. Work through me to reveal Your love to others, no matter what it may cost me. What more could I give in return for Your love? Amen.

Can we cooperate with the Spirit? Can we put feet to our prayers to be love in any way? We can identify two spiritual factors that foster growth in the fruit and over which we have a certain amount of control. Many of us think we are passive agents and only the Spirit is active: we do nothing, and the Spirit does everything. That would make us robots. God did not create robots.

The Principle of Yearning


MATTHEW 5:6


"BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH DO HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS: FOR THEY SHALL BE FILLED."

Yearning and Giving

The first ingredient of love into which we can introduce our will is yearning. We learn that from God. God greatly desired us. This yearning is the primary stimulus that causes love to take action. Love yearns for communion with and spiritual perfection for its object. Love yearns for the highest good of its object. Yearning is zealous and knows the secret of concentration. Love takes action as God took action. We yearn to commune with God and to become like Him—to "hunger and thirst after righteousness" (Matt. 5:6).

Giving is the most potent action that strong yearning can take. God is the great Giver, and we learn giving from Him. If we take action as God does, we too will be great givers. God provides us with countless opportunities to give: to His cause, to the needy, and to our brothers and sisters in Christ. We can give material goods, service, and ourselves. Love givers understand this world and its inhabitants as destitute and impoverished, regardless of apparent material wealth. Love givers are joyful in the opportunity to supply in the generous way God does.

 4. What is one thing you can do to develop the fruit of love?

 5. Turn to the Lifelong Help A-4: *Hungry* on page 246 and/or The Mind of Christ Card 23 and review the helps for developing this Beatitude.

The Principle of Identification


MATTHEW 11:29-30

"TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU, AND LEARN OF ME; FOR I AM MEEK AND LOWLY IN HEART: AND YE SHALL FIND REST UNTO YOUR SOULS. FOR MY YOKE IS EASY, AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT".


Identification

The second factor in love over which we have control is identification. The most visible act of divine identification with us took place when Jesus became a man. God knows what it is like to be a human being! God knows what it is like to be hungry, thirsty, and tired. Jesus even experienced the pangs of death. God also knows the strength of human love. Jesus knows what genuine human friendship is like. He understands the eternal spiritual longings that stir our souls. God identifies with us.

We practice identification when we identify ourselves with Christ—when we take His yoke and learn from Him (see Matt. 11:29-30). Paul expressed this idea of identification when he said, "... that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death" (Phil. 3:10). Paul wanted to identify with Christ in every way, including sharing in Jesus' sufferings and, if necessary, His death.

 6. What is a second thing you can do to develop the fruit of love?

Yearning is the culmination of God's work through us in circumstances that produce poverty of spirit, brokenness, and meekness—the first group of Beatitudes. Identification is the culmination of the work of the second group of Beatitudes—showing mercy, becoming pure, and making peace (see Matt. 5:10). God built into the way He works with us factors that will facilitate our becoming love. If we cooperate with God, we are learning *to be* as well as *to do*.


-  7. Turn to the Lifelong Help B-4: *Persecuted* on pages 250 and/or The Mind of Christ Card 27 and review the helps for developing this Beatitude.

Our first yearning and identification must center on the person of God. We yearn for God first. That is the original work of the Spirit in our lives. We grow in that yearning through being poor in spirit, broken, and meek. We cannot identify with others until we identify with God. Then our identification with God through the Spirit enables us to show mercy, demonstrate purity, and make peace.

The Spirit's work causes us to love God first. By loving God, we learn to love others. We must especially love our brothers and sisters in Christ. The quality of our love for others is the same quality as our love for God (see 1 John 1:3,7). The greater our love for God, the greater our love for others. Love facilitates fellowship in the body of Christ. Yearning and identification are holy works. In loving as God loves, we perfect our purity. Love is holy, and holy persons love in the same way God loves.

Summary

Love and holiness can be reconciled. Each intensifies the meaning of the other. One is not possible without the other. Love that is not holy (pure, unadulterated) is meaningless. And if holiness does not love, it is useless. As with all the vast attributes of the mind of Christ, each enhances and amplifies the effect of the other.

-  8. Conclude by spending time in prayer. Pray this prayer:

Heavenly Father, with this new understanding of the interworking of holiness and love, I feel that I almost understand how Your work makes sense on a grand scale. I understand that I cannot merely concentrate on holiness. If I do, I will pervert its purity and separation. Neither can I concentrate on love alone. If I do, impure elements will dilute it. The holiness I seek is like that of Jesus, perfectly coordinated with love. The only love I must have is that which is modified by holiness. I am looking to Jesus for my understanding of these qualities. Make me like Him. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MATTHEW 5:10

"BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE: FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN."

1 JOHN 1:3,7

"THAT WHICH WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD DECLARE WE UNTO YOU, THAT YE ALSO MAY HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH US: AND TRULY OUR FELLOWSHIP IS WITH THE FATHER, AND WITH HIS SON JESUS CHRIST. BUT IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT, AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT, WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP ONE WITH ANOTHER, AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HIS SON CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN."