

## CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

### “GOD IS LOVE”

#### SCRIPTURE READING:

**“<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. <sup>8</sup> He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love” (1 John 4:7-8).**

#### INTRODUCTION:

##### **A. God loves at all times. His very nature is Love (v. 7).**

He loves everybody: The saved and unsaved, rich and poor, healthy and suffering, deserving and undeserving, acceptable and unacceptable, good and bad. God loves everybody – regardless of the situation or circumstance – at all times.

##### **B. According to 1 John 4:9. This is the way God revealed that He loves us – “God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.”**

- “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom 5:8).
- “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit” (1 Pet 3:18).

##### **C. Quotes About The Love of God:**

- God loves each of us as if there was only one of us” – Saint Augustine.
- Though our feelings come and go, God’s love for us does not” – C.S. Lewis.
- Love is more than a characteristic of God; It is His Character” – Anonymous.
- God showed us His love in giving us His plan for mankind’s Salvation. The truth is, without God’s Love, man would be in an awful fix. This is true because sin separates man from God according to Isaiah 59:2. And just **One Sin** will condemn us eternally if we are not under the Blood of Christ (Romans 6:23)” – Elizabethton Star.

#### **In this lesson, we will study six characteristics of God’s Love:**

##### **I. GOD’S LOVE IS UNIVERSAL**

God’s Love is available to all people. It is not given to some and withheld from others. It is for everybody – The Whole World. There is no discrimination, limitation or exclusiveness in God’s Love. God Loves everyone and wants everyone to love Him and be forever His children.

- “<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup>For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved (John 3:16-17).

- “And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world” (1 John 4:14).
- “<sup>3</sup> For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; <sup>4</sup> Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim 2:3-4).

## II. GOD’S LOVE IS UNCONDITIONAL

Unconditional Love means that God chooses to Love us regardless of the circumstances.

### A. **God’s Love is Unchangeable**

It is constant – always the same. God does not love us **more** when we please or obey Him or **less** when we have failed Him or sinned against Him.

### B. **We cannot do anything that will make God love us more or love us less.**

- “For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed” (Mal 3:6).
- “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (Heb 13:8).

### C. **Jesus has No Conditions on His Love**

Have you ever heard one child tell another child I will not be your friend unless you do so and so? This is putting conditions on a friendship. Sometimes we forget that Jesus loves us unconditionally. He never says, “I’ll love you if ...” He loves us whether or not we read our Bible. He loves us whether or not we go to church. He even loves us whether or not we accept Him as our Lord and Savior. What a friend we have in Jesus! (Lou Nicholes – Missionary/Author).

- Christ died for us “**When we were yet without strength**” ... “**The Ungodly**” ... “**While we were yet sinners**” ... “**When we were Enemies**” (Rom 5:6-10).

## III. GOD’S LOVE IS INITIATING LOVE

God does not wait for us to come to Him asking for love and acceptance. He has already initiated His Love for us by sending His Son to die in our place and on our behalf. Long before we seek and turn to God, He seeks us and turns to us.

- “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).
- “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).
- “We love him, because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19).

## IV. GOD’S LOVE IS FAITHFUL

God always keep His promise to love us. Even when we are not faithful towards God, He remains faithful and true to us. We may disobey God and turn away from Him, He never turns away from us. He is always faithful – Trust Him at His Word.

- “God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? (Num 23:19).

- “The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee” (Jer 31:3).
- “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began” (Titus 1:2).
- “That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us” (Heb 6:18).

## V. **GOD’S LOVE IS RECONCILING LOVE**

**A. In Christ’s Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5:43-48, He commanded us to love our enemies, not just our friends. Christ loves those who are His enemies, and He wants us to imitate Him – to love our enemies.**

**B. A Biblical example of how Christians are to love their enemies:**

- “<sup>17</sup>Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. <sup>18</sup>If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. <sup>19</sup>Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. <sup>20</sup>Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. <sup>21</sup>Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good” (Rom 12:17-21).

**C. God forgives us when we confess our sins (1 John 1:9).** Therefore, we are commanded to forgive those who trespass against us.

- “<sup>14</sup>For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: <sup>15</sup>But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matt 6:14-15).
- “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you” (Eph 4:32).
- “Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye” (Col 3:13).
- **SET FREE**  
A twelve-year-old accidentally killed one of his family’s geese by throwing a stone. Figuring his parents wouldn’t notice one of twenty-four gone he buried it. His sister saw his crime and said, “I saw what you did, and if you don’t wash the dishes for me, I’ll tell mom.” The boy did the dishes for days. One day, the boy said, “You do them.” His sister said, “I’ll tell mom.” The boy replied, “I already told her and she forgave me – I’m free again.” (Source: Unknown).

## VI. **GOD’S LOVE IS INSEPERABLE** (Rom 8:35-39)

There is nothing in the universe that can separate the Believer from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- A. **Not Death** - confronting death and departing this world cannot separate us from Christ and His love.
- B. **Not Life** – no trial, comfort of life, not any person, not anything in this life can separate us from Christ and His love.
- C. **Not Angels. Principalities or Powers** – no heavenly or spiritual creature can separate us from Christ and His love.
- D. **Not Anything Present or Anything to Come** – neither present events, beings, or things, nor future events, beings, or things – nothing in existence or anything in the future can separate us from Christ and His love.
- E. **Not Height or Depth** – nothing from outer space or from the depths of the earth can separate us from Christ and His love.
- F. **Not Any Other Creature** – If there be any other creatures than the ones named, that creature cannot “separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)” - (Heb 10:23).**

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. **“God loves you. He loves you yesterday. He loves you tomorrow. He loves you always. Regardless if you mess up.” – BibleGodQuotes.com**
- B. **“God proved His love on the Cross. When Jesus hung, and bled and died, it was God saying to the world, “I Love You.” – Billy Graham**
- C. **“God’s Love is impartial. He makes His sun to rise on the good and the evil. If God gave us what we deserve, all of us would deserve condemnation.” – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**
  - **“That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matt 5:45).**

**D. Romans Road to Salvation (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)**

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**“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).**