



The Love of God

Lesson 5

Not only must we know the identity of God (as explained in the last lesson) in order to worship Him “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24), but we must also know His character of love.

1. Who is the source of love?

1 John 4:7 _____

2. What knowledge characterizes everyone who loves?

1 John 4:7 _____

3. What is missing in all those who do not love?

1 John 4:8 _____

4. How do we know that God loves us?

1 John 4:9 _____

Love is manifested by giving. It is often assumed that the opposite of love is hate, but in reality the opposite of love is selfishness. Selfishness is a lack of love. There is no such thing as darkness, it is only an absence of light. Selfishness is the absence of love. Love is *selflessness*, the willingness to give everything for the benefit of others.

5. How much does God love us?

John 3:16 _____

When Jesus said God “*so loved* the world” He was saying, “This is how much God loves you, He loves you so much that He did something for you. He demonstrated His love for you by giving up His most precious possession, His only begotten Son.”

6. What did God ask Abraham to give up to demonstrate his love?

Genesis 22:2 _____

7. Explain why God asked Abraham to give up His Son rather than his favorite cow, or something else.

Genesis 22:12 _____

8. If Abraham would have been asked to give all of his possessions to the poor, would he have done it? How can you be sure your answer is correct?

Genesis 22:12 _____

9. What was the rich young ruler asked to give up to demonstrate his love?

Matthew 19:21 _____

Love is measured by the value of that which a person is willing to give up.

10. Is there anything that God is not willing to give for us?

Romans 8:32 _____

11. What does this verse tell us about how much God values His Son in comparison to “all things”?

Romans 8:32 _____

If God had loved the world so much that He gave a goat, you and I would seriously question God's love for us, because a goat would be an almost meaningless gift for God to give up, since it is something He created. If God had loved the world so much that He gave a human, what would we think then? Well, that is a little better than a goat, but it is still a small gift, because humans were also created. What if God had loved the world so much that He gave an angel? That is a better gift than a human, but it still falls far short of demonstrating how much God loves us. We could still think that God is holding something back. You see, our understanding of God's love depends upon the value of the gift He gave up for us. The more valuable the gift He gave, the more we can see His love for us. God gave His only *begotten* Son for us. There are others whom He calls sons, but He only has one *begotten* Son.

12. Christ came to redeem us so that we might receive what?

Galatians 4:5 _____

13. Angels of God met together with God, and what were they called?

Job 1:6 _____

We can be "sons of God" by *adoption* (Romans 8:14, 15), angels are "sons of God" by *creation* (Job 1:6; 2:1), but Jesus Christ is the only *begotten* Son of God. What sets Jesus Christ apart from everyone else in the universe, and by which we know God's love for us, is the fact that He was *begotten*. This puts Him in the closest possible relationship with God.

When God gave up His only begotten Son it proved that He is willing to give up every possession, suffer any amount of pain, and endure any hardship in order to save those whom He loves. This is what Paul meant when he said, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32)

God truly loves us, yet this love can only be comprehended by understanding that God gave His only *begotten* Son.

14. What must we believe about Jesus to overcome the world?

1 John 5:5 _____

Believing that Jesus is the *begotten* Son of God enables us to overcome the world by elevating our perception of God's love and enabling us to love Him with all our hearts in return. Love produces love.

15. Why do people love God?

1 John 4:19 _____

16. As we behold God's glory what happens to us?

2 Corinthians 3:18 _____

17. What did Moses ask God to show him?

Exodus 33:18 _____

18. What did God cause to pass before Moses to reveal His glory to him? How do these texts help us to know what God's glory is?

Exodus 33:19 _____

19. Where can we look to behold God's glory?

2 Corinthians 4:6 _____

The face of Jesus Christ is used to refer to the life, words, and actions of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Smyrna Gospel Ministries

Present Truth Department

577 Eden Park Ave.

Altamonte Springs, Florida 32714 USA

Phone: (407) 291-9565 -or- (304) 633-5411

E-mail: info@presenttruth.info; **Web Site:** www.presenttruth.info