

Ephesians Series

Lesson #191

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Love, Fellowship with God

1 John 2



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

Joy/Inner Happiness/Tranquility of Soul
James 1:3; John 15:11: 17:13

**Personal Love
for God**
Deut. 6:5

**Biblical Love for All;
Christian Love for
Other Believers**
Lev. 19:18; Jn. 13:34, 35

**Occupation with
Christ**
Heb. 12:2; Php. 3:20

Personal Sense of our Eternal Destiny
Col. 3:24; 1 Pet. 1:4

Faith-Rest Drill
Prov. 3:5, 6

Grace Orientation
Eph. 2:8, 9
2 Pet. 3:18

**Doctrinal
Orientation**
2 Pet. 3:18

Walking by the Spirit/Filled by the Spirit
Gal. 5:16

Confession of Sin, 1 John 1:9

The connection between these skills:

- 1. Personal love for God: provides the motivation.**
- 2. Biblical Love for All Mankind: BLAM/
Christian Love for One Another: CLOA—evidence of
biblical discipleship (dedicated student of the Word
developing spiritual maturity).**
- 3. Occupation with Christ.**



What we have learned so far:

- **Understood two types of love: “Biblical Love for All Mankind” and “Christian Love for One Another.”**
- **Christian love is developed as part of the fruit of the Spirit, and thus is not something we develop on our own.**
- **Love is the *sine qua non* of the Christian life, 1 Cor. 13:1–3.**
- **The characteristics of love are the opposite of self-centeredness and arrogance, 1 Cor. 13:4–7**

An attempted definition of Christian love:

Love is a mental attitude toward others which desires the best for them according to the standards of God's integrity and thinks and acts toward them consistent with that desire and standards. Christian love is impossible apart from a walk by the Spirit and spiritual growth.

Application

- 1. Live our lives as much as possible by walking in partnership with the Holy Spirit toward the goal of spiritual maturity (biblical fellowship).**
- 2. Think and pray about our reactions to others when we know we are not exhibiting Christian love.**
- 3. Don't get discouraged. Developing a biblical love for others is a lengthy process related to our own spiritual growth.**

What the Bible Teaches About

Understanding Biblical Love



What 1 John Teaches About

Love



Love in 1 John

- 1. Love, *agapé*, is used 28× in 1 John, in 17 verses.**
- 2. Among these are some difficult statements, which means how we interpret 1 John is very determinative.**
- 3. The debate is whether John is addressing believers or unbelievers.**

The Key Word in John 13–21 is Love

The verb *agapao* is used 37× in John, 7× before Jn. 13, 20× between Jn. 13–16

Love is a major theme, but not used at all in Jn. 17–20, the narrative of the arrest, trial, and crucifixion, which depicts God's love for us.

The noun *agape* is used 7×, only 1× before Jn. 13, 5× in Jn. 15, 1× in Jn. 17

***Phileo*: 13×, only 4× before Jn. 13**

***Philos*: 6×, only 2× before Jn. 13**

Not used in 1 John

To Whom Does John Address the Epistle?

- 1. John calls his readers “little children” whose “sins are forgiven for His name’s sake” (1 Jn. 2:12). He also calls them “fathers” who “have known Him from the beginning,” and he writes to the young men who “have overcome the evil one” and in whom “the word of God abides” (1 Jn. 2:13–14).**

To Whom Does John Address the Epistle?

2. They are said to “abide,” which is a term for fellowship, cf., John 15:1–8; 1 John 2:6.

1 John 2:6, “He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”

To Whom Does John Address the Epistle?

3. He refers to hating their brothers. If the haters are not believers, then they are not brothers. Therefore both must be believers to be brothers.

1 John 2:10, “He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

1 John 2:11, “But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”

To Whom Does John Address the Epistle?

- 4. He uses the 1st person plural pronoun “we,” which includes himself with his readers. He and they are believers in Christ possessing eternal life.**

The first grouping is in 1 John 2:3–11.

1. **1 John 2:3**, “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.”

1 John 2:4, “He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1 John 2:5, “But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected [matured] in him. By this we know that we are in Him.”

**Know Him = Keep His commandments = Keep His Word
= Love for God maturing**

2. 1 John 2:9, “He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.”

1 John 2:10, “He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

1 John 2:11, “But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”

a. 1 John 2:6–8 transitions to the light/darkness contrast.

b. The one who hates his brother = is [walking] in darkness = 1 John 1:6, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”

The one who says he is in the light and hates his brother = is not having fellowship = not practicing [*poieo*], “not doing” the truth.

The one who walks in the light = we have fellowship with one another.

1 John 1:6, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

1 John 1:7, “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Conclusion

“Hating his brother” means the one who hates is a believer.

- 1. We only have fellowship with one another as we are walking in the light.**
- 2. The one who loves his brother abides in the light.**
- 3. The one who hates his brother is in darkness, walks in darkness.**
- 4. The one who walks in darkness lies and is not doing the truth.**

Negatively

1 John 2:15, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love for the Father is not in him.”

1 John 2:5, “But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.”

a. 1 Jn. 2:5 keeping God's Word correlates to a believer who is maturing in his love for God.

b. Friendship with the world is enmity toward God (James 4:4).

The one who loves the world is a believer who has not overcome the world.

The one who loves the world has not developed in his love for the Father.

c. The one who has not developed his love for the Father is not keeping His Word.