

Our **Heart** is to be sincere and humble followers of Jesus, people who love **God**, and people who really love **people**. We want to minister the same way Jesus ministered.

Session #6 Love God & People By Choice In Every Single Thing You Do!

Love is Required...

1 Corinthians 13:1–3 (NLT) *Love Is the Greatest* If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, **I would be nothing.** ³ If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but **if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.**

1 Corinthians 16:14 (NLT) ¹⁴ And **do everything** with love.

Luke 6:27–33 (NLT) *Love for Enemies* ²⁷ "But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. ²⁸ Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. ³⁰ Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. ³¹ Do to others as you would like them to do to you.

³² "If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! ³³ And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much!

1 John 4:7–21 (NLT) *Loving One Another*

⁷ Dear friends, **let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.** ⁸ **But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.**

⁹ God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰ This is real love—not that we loved God, **but that he loved us** and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, **since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.** ¹² No one has ever seen God. But **if we love each other, God lives in us,** and his love is brought to full expression in us.

¹³ And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. ¹⁴ Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. ¹⁶ We **know how much God loves us,** and **we have put our trust in his love.**

God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.¹⁷ And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.

¹⁸ Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. ¹⁹ We love each other because he loved us first.

²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? ²¹ And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.

Christians Love God & People!

Twelve Truths From Scripture About Love:

1. God Love's People

John 3:16 (NLT) ¹⁶ "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

Psalms 23:6 (NLT) ⁶ Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

2. Difficulties Do Not Mean God Stopped Loving Us! His Love For People is Settled Once and For All!

Romans 8:38–39 (NLT) ³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. Loving God and Loving People Are The Most Important Commandments

Mark 12:28–31 (NLT) *The Most Important Commandment*

²⁸ One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" ²⁹ Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD.' ³⁰ And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' ³¹ The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."

4. God is Love! If We Are Really His, We Love!

If We Are Not His, It Proves We Don't Really Know Him.

1 John 4:7–8 (NLT) *Loving One Another*⁷ Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Galatians 5:22–23 (NLT) ²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

5. He Loved Us When We Didn't Love Him, So We Can Love Others!

1 John 4:19 (NLT) ¹⁹ We love each other because he loved us first.

John 17:20–21 (NLT) ²⁰ “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. ²¹ I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT) ⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

6. Real Love Is Evident By Our Attitude & Actions!

1 Corinthians 13:4–7 (NLT) ⁴ Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. ⁶ It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

7. We Can Love Our Enemies

Matthew 5:43–48 (NLT) *Teaching about Love for Enemies*⁴³ “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! ⁴⁵ In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. ⁴⁶ If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. ⁴⁷ If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. ⁴⁸ But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Luke 23:34a (NLT) ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”

Acts 7:59–60 (NLT) ⁵⁹ As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ He fell to his knees, shouting, “Lord, don’t charge them with this sin!” And with that, he died.

8. Let Love Be Your Highest Goal

1 Corinthians 13:14:1 (NLT) ¹³ Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love. 14:1. Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives—especially the ability to prophesy.

9. Choose To Love By Serving People

Galatians 5:13–14 (NLT) ¹³For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. ¹⁴For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

10. Choose To Operate In Love

Colossians 3:12–15 (NLT) ¹²Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

11. Connect In Relationship

1 Peter 4:8 (NLT) ⁸Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.

Romans 12:9–10 (NLT) ⁹Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. ¹⁰Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT) ¹¹So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

John 15:12–14 (NLT) ¹²**This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.**
¹³**There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.**

Acts 2:42–47 (NLT) *The Believers Form a Community* ⁴²All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. ³A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—⁴⁷all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

12. Do Everything With Love

1 Corinthians 16:14 (NLT) ¹⁴And do everything with love.

Feel And Receive Love

Romans 5:5 (NLT) ⁵And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has **given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.**

Ephesians 3:16–19 (NLT) ¹⁶ I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.