

STUDY GUIDE

THE KINGDOM OF LOVE!

Introduction:

As we complete both this Kingdom series and the Valentine season of Love, it is important for us to understand and act on Love from God's perspective? Unbeknownst to us, we are heavenly influenced in our definition of love by the Greek and the Roman cultures that came after the Judeo/Christian culture. Today, we have the opportunity to forge a different path by following the example and teaching of our King Jesus Christ!

Scriptures:

GENESIS 12:1-2

EXODUS 2:23-25, 19:12-13, 20:1-17 & 34:5-7,14

LEVITICUS 19:17-18

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-5

PSALMS 139:13-28

MATTHEW 20:20-28 & 22:24-36

JOHN 3:1-21 & 4:21-24

II CORINTHIANS 15:1-2

Discussion Questions:

1. What were the three channels of traditions that have formed our understanding of Valentine's Day and consequently love?
2. What gets lost from a Biblical perspective in Romanization and Hellenization?
3. Why do you think Tina Turner's hit song, "What's Love Got To Do With It?", became so popular? How did Jesus respond to this question?
4. In what major ways is Jesus' Kingdom different from the kingdoms of this world?
5. In what major ways can I love God, myself and others?

Moving Forward:

- Remember-We must take ownership of our memories because they affect every aspect of our lives!
- Respect-We must hone our ability to honor others by choosing to discount and disregard their faults and offences!
- Rebuke-We must take ownership of our hearts by refusing to hate by either revenge or resentment!

Changing Your Mind:

But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the

great commandment in the law?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." (MATTHEW 22:34-40, NKJV)