



EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

BIBLE STUDY: GENUINE LOVE IN ACTION

People have many different ideas about love. However, these ideas often fall far short of the deep, rich qualities of love that we learn about in Scripture.

What is Genuine Love?

VERSES Pg. 810

1. What are some characteristics of genuine love? 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

What Love Is	What Love Isn't

2. Carefully read 1 John 4:8-19.

a. What important fact about God do you see in verse 8? _____

b. What is the difference between saying “*God is love*” and “*love is God*”?

c. What has God done to demonstrate His love for us? Verses 9,10 _____

d. Why should we love? Verses 11, 19 _____

e. Can love and fear exist together? Why or why not? Verse 18.

3. From your study thus far, summarize what love is like.

The Direction of Your Love

4. Who should Christians love?

Deuteronomy 6:5 _____

Luke 6:27 _____

1 Peter 4:8 _____

5. Read John 13:34,35. Why do you think Jesus placed such emphasis on demonstrating love?

6. Read 1 John 3:16-18. Summarize in your own words how genuine love can be demonstrated.

Many people have learned only to exist with others: "If you do your part," they say, "I'll do mine." This conditional type of giving is not love. God wants us to say, "I will love you even if I receive nothing in return." God forms this selfless giving and loving in our attitudes and actions.

Love in Humility

7. Humility comes from having the right perspective toward God and toward yourself. What do the following verses tell you about this?

Jeremiah 9:23,24 _____

2 Corinthians 10:18 _____

Philippians 2:3 _____

8. Read 1 Peter 5:5,6. Consider what God thinks about the humble person. Why do you think God places such a high value on humility in a person's life?

a. What error must you be careful to avoid? _____

b. What do you think are the results of overestimating yourself?

c. What do you think of underestimating yourself? _____

Any preoccupation with self is pride.

PRIDE

**Thinking too highly of self:
"God's work can't get along without
Me!"**

**Thinking too lowly of self:
"God can't do anything through me!"**

10. What do the following verses warn us about?

2 Corinthians 10:12 _____

James 3:16 _____

11. Read Proverbs 8:13. _____

a. What is God's attitude toward pride? _____

b. What are some common ways pride is revealed in your life? _____

c. What specific thing do you feel God would want you to do about one of these areas?

12. Summarize the relationship you see between love and humility.

Love in Speech

13. What can the *right* words do? _____

Proverbs 12:25 _____

Proverbs 16:24 _____

Proverbs 22:1 _____

14. What sins are you warned to avoid?

Proverbs 10:19 _____

Proverbs 17:9 _____

Proverbs 27:2 _____

15. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12. Paul has great love for the Thessalonians (verse 8) and displays it in his speech. How did Paul speak to the Thessalonians?

Verse 3 _____

Verse 4 _____

Verse 5 _____

Verse 11 _____

Love in Good Works

Love is not an inner feeling, but an act of the will. Love can be known only by the action it produces.

16. What is the relationship between salvation and good works? Ephesians 2:8,10

Why do you think a Christian should practice good works?

17. What should be the primary motivation behind your actions? 1 Corinthians 10:31

18. Consider 1 John 3:17. Would you be willing to take off your coat and give it to a needy Christian? Perhaps you can think of an instance where you could have met another's need but did not. What could you do when there is another opportunity like this?

19. What should you remember in doing good works?

Galatians 6:9,10 _____

Titus 3:8 _____

*Charity suffereth long, and is kind;
charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is
not puffed up,
Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her
own,
is not easily provoked,
thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but
rejoiceth in the truth;
Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all
things, endureth all things.
Charity never faileth:*

*but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail;
whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether
there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.*

(1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

*This love of which I speak is slow to lose
patience—it looks for a way of being
constructive.
It is not possessive: It is neither anxious to impress
nor does it cherish inflated ideas
of its own importance.
Love has good manners and does not pursue
selfish advantage;
It is not touchy.
It does not keep account of evil or gloat over the
wickedness of other people.
On the contrary, it
shares the joy of those who live by the truth.
Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to
its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast
anything.”
1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

Remember These Points:

Add a sentence or two to the following statements to summarize the most important things you learned from each section of this chapter.

What Is Genuine Love?

The Scriptures reveal and demonstrate God’s love.

* From *The New Testament in Modern English*, Revised Edition, copyright, 1960, 1972 by J. B. Phillips.

The Direction of Your Love

Scripture teaches that love should mark us as Christians.

Love in Humility

Humility is the starting point for love.

Love in Speech

Love is demonstrated by our speech.

Love in Good Works

Actions will show the reality of our love.
