



Lesson 1

Marked by Love

INTRODUCTION

Did you know that as Christians we have an actual identifier? This identifier is a “mark” of love (for both God and others) that makes known we are followers of Christ.

JESUS SAID TO HIM, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ THIS IS THE FIRST AND GREAT COMMANDMENT. AND THE SECOND IS LIKE IT: ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ ON THESE TWO COMMANDMENTS HANG ALL THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS.”
MATTHEW 22:37-40 (NKJV)

“A NEW COMMANDMENT I GIVE TO YOU, THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER; AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, THAT YOU ALSO LOVE ONE ANOTHER. BY THIS ALL WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU HAVE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER.” JOHN 13:34-35 (NKJV)

Jesus did not say that loving God and others would be a natural result of becoming a Christian. In fact, He implied that loving might be difficult at times, as shown by His command of us to love. Commandments require both obedience and submission. Jesus knew that we would have to consistently submit our will to Him in order to consistently show love. The degree of our submission is an indication of our love for Him. I am loved so I obey. NOT I obey so I will be loved!

SCRIPTURE SHOWS US TO LIVE IN LOVE

The Bible is filled with examples of “walking out love.”

In “The Good Samaritan” parable, Jesus teaches us to love ALL men (including our enemies). (Luke 10:30-37)

Christians should love all men, especially our brothers and sisters in Christ. (Gal. 6:10)

We can show love for Him by helping others. (Matt. 25:31-40)

We show love by sympathizing with those experiencing sadness, and by rejoicing with those who are experiencing joy. (Romans 12:15; 1 Cor. 12:26)

We are to show love by forgiving those who hurt or offend us. (Matt. 18:21-22, Eph. 4:23)

We are to show love by LOVINGLY correcting our fellow Christians. (Matt. 18:15-17)

Love is patient and kind. (1 Cor. 13:4-8)

GOD IS...

GOD IS LOVE. Everything that Jesus did during His ministry on earth was done in love. He was love defined. Jesus lived love. The better we know God, the more we'll understand how to love since He is love!

LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE WITH LOVE.
1 CORINTHIANS 16:14 (NKJV)

GOD IS GOD. Arguably, the most profound, important, and neglected revelation in the Word of God today is the fact that God is God! We sometimes feel that we can pick and choose what we want to believe about God and His Word, and how we want to apply this chosen belief to our lives. The Bible warns against this behavior.

God always **WAS**,

God **IS**,

God always **WILL BE**.

He is unchanging.

HOW SCRIPTURE DESCRIBES GOD

He is...

Majestic/ Fascinating/ Awe Inspiring
(Isa. 29:23; Mal. 2:5)

Good/ Gracious/ Wonderful/ Full of Love
(1 John 4:8-9)

Perfectly Wise (Isa. 28:29; Jer. 10:12)

Creator (John 1:1-4; Acts 17:24)

Sovereign (Isa. 44:6, 46:9-10; Mark 13:19)

AND He is...

Jealous / Wrathful (Ex. 20:5, 34:14)

Just / A righteous judge (Deut. 32:4; Ps. 9:4)

Mysterious / Of Humanly Unbearable Proportions
(Isa. 55:8-9)

All Powerful / Awesome (Job 37:16; Jer. 31:35)

God is One who is without comparison or description. He has always been and will always be sovereign, perfect, and holy. He is distinctly above and beyond ever being fully known or emulated by man.

THUS SAYS THE LORD, THE KING OF ISRAEL, AND HIS REDEEMER, THE LORD OF HOSTS: I AM THE FIRST AND I AM THE LAST; BESIDES ME THERE IS NO GOD. ISAIAH 44:6 (NKJV)

HE HAS MADE THE EARTH BY HIS POWER, HE HAS ESTABLISHED THE WORLD BY HIS WISDOM, AND HAS STRETCHED OUT THE HEAVENS AT HIS DISCRETION. JEREMIAH 10:12 (NKJV)

THUS SAYS THE LORD, WHO GIVES THE SUN FOR LIGHT BY DAY AND THE FIXED ORDER OF THE MOON AND THE STARS FOR LIGHT BY NIGHT, WHO STIRS UP THE SEA SO THAT ITS WAVES ROAR -THE LORD OF HOSTS IS HIS NAME: JEREMIAH 31:35 (ESV)

“FOR MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS, NOR ARE YOUR WAYS MY WAYS,” SAYS THE LORD. “FOR AS THE HEAVENS ARE HIGHER THAN THE EARTH, SO ARE MY WAYS HIGHER THAN YOUR WAYS, AND MY THOUGHTS THAN YOUR THOUGHTS.” ISAIAH 55:8-9 (NKJV)

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S HOLINESS

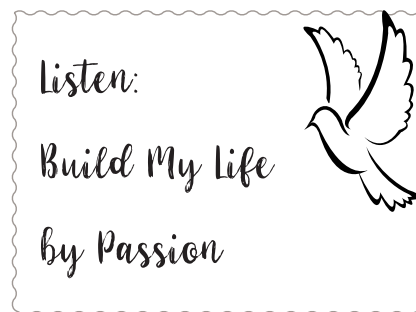
We should feel:

Awe

Fascination

Reverence

Love



The hearts of believers should be shrines and sanctuaries of love and worship.

THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM... PSALM 111:10 (NKJV)

CONCLUSION

This...

Magnificent. Creator of All. Knower of All. Worker of All.

This...

Unstoppable. Unlimited. Majestic. I AM...

LOVES US!

God loves us so much that He gave up His most precious treasure so that we might know and fellowship with Him.

It is finished.

This revelation knowledge is why Paul, Peter and John wrote of their nothingness and of His greatness. Their writings did not spring from self-deprecation, but from a vivid awareness of our loving God. Oh, that God would give us this same great revelation so that we may always walk confidently with Him.