

Define Love

- I. What definition does an English dictionary give for love?

- I. In Matthew 5:43-44 what Greek word is translated as love? _____
 - a. What is the Strong's number for this word? _____
 - b. What is the definition of this word? _____

 - c. Find three other places where this word is used:
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
 - d. On a separate piece of paper (or your computer) answer the following questions about the three passages you found.
 - i. Who is showing love in this passage?
 - ii. To what is love directed in this passage?
- II. In Matthew 6:5-6 what Greek word is translated as love? _____
 - a. What is the Strong's number for this word? _____
 - b. What is the definition of this word? _____

 - c. Find three other places where this word is used:
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
 - d. On a separate piece of paper (or your computer) answer the following questions about the three passages you found.
 - i. Who is showing love in this passage?
 - ii. To what is love directed in this passage?
- III. Having looked these up, was the English definition of love adequate?

End notes: In Greek there are two other words used for love, but one of these (Eros) is not used in the Bible. The other (Storge) one is used only twice, but in a negative sense (i.e. unloving).

Study of Love in 1 John

Read through 1 John (It is only 5 short chapters). If you are not comfortable highlighting your Bible, then print out a copy of 1 John that you can highlight (See David if you need help with this).

- I. How many times is love or a variant of love (i.e. Beloved) used in each chapter of 1 John?

a. Chapter 1: ____	c. Chapter 3: ____	e. Chapter 5: ____
b. Chapter 2: ____	d. Chapter 4: ____	
- II. What Greek word for love does John use: _____
- III. What things does John say we should love? (use another page if there are not enough spaces)

a. _____	c. _____	e. _____
b. _____	d. _____	f. _____
- IV. What things does John say we should not love? (use another page if there are not enough spaces)

a. _____	c. _____	e. _____
b. _____	d. _____	f. _____
- V. What were John's reasons for writing this book, give the references where you found these (hint 1: look toward the beginning and end of the book. Hint 2: look for "I am writing").
- VI. According to 1 John 2:18-24, who is the antichrist? _____
- VII. In 1 John 4:7-8, what is our motivation for loving one another? _____
- VIII. In 1 John 5:1-3, how can we know that we love the children of God?
- IX. According to the book of 1 John how has God shown His love for us?
- X. According to the book of 1 John how do we show our love for God?
- XI. According to 1 John who might hate us because we love God?

XII. What other words are repeated a lot in this book (use another page)?

Study of the connection between loving God and obeying His commandments

This section will survey both Old and New Testament passages to see the connection between loving God and obeying His commands. You will need a concordance and a willingness to dig just a bit.

Old Testament:

- I. In Deuteronomy chapter 6 how many occurrences do you find of the following words or concepts?
 - a. Commandment, Command, Commanding: _____
 - b. Obey, Do, Keep, Observe (the Commands): _____
 - c. You or Your: _____
 - d. God, Lord, "Lord your God": _____
- II. With how much of their heart, soul and strength were they commanded to love God? _____
- III. To whom were they supposed to teach God's commandments? _____

- IV. When were they supposed to teach those commandments? _____

- V. Was teaching God's commands one way to show their love for God? ____
Why or why not? _____
- VI. From this passage could you conclude that God wanted His people to spend time studying His commands? _____
- VII. Using your concordance (paper or digital) find how many times "Loving God" is mentioned in the book of Deuteronomy (Hint: search for Love): _____
 - a. How many of these occurrences are mentioned in conjunction with Obedience to God? _____
 - b. Does the concept of God loving His people ever show up in Deuteronomy? _____. If so, how many times? _____
- XIII. Find where Joshua quotes Deuteronomy 6:5 (Hint 1: Look in the book of Joshua. Hint 2: use your concordance). _____

- a. In this context did Joshua connect loving God to obeying the commandments of God? _____

XIV. In any of the passages you have read so far, does the concept of “loving God” ever refer to an emotion separate from acts of obedience? _____

New Testament:

- I. In Matthew 22 why does Jesus reference Deuteronomy 6:5? _____

- a. Both Mark and Luke record this same event. What are the references for these parallel passages?

Mark ____:____ Luke ____:____

- II. According to Jesus what is the second greatest commandment? _____

- III. In John 14:15 Jesus says “if you _____ Me, you will _____ my _____.”

- a. Where does the larger context of this passage begin and end? (Hint 1: Look for where there is a change of event and/or location. Hint 2: the chapter breaks in this section are actually placed rather well.)

John ____:____ through John ____:____

- b. During what major event does this teaching section take place? _____

- c. Who were the original recipients of John 14:15? _____

- d. In the above mentioned context, how many occurrences are there of the following words?

i. Love: _____

ii. Command, Commandment, Commandments: _____

iii. God: _____

iv. Me, My, Mine (Jesus using personal pronouns) _____

- e. Each occurrence of “Commandment” in this context is in conjunction with what other important word? _____

- f. Is this correlation important? _____

- IV. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5-7) Jesus compares true righteousness to the false righteousness of hypocrites.
- a. How many occurrences do you find of the following words in the Sermon on the Mount?
 - i. Love: _____
 - ii. Righteousness, Righteous: _____
 - iii. Hypocrites: _____
 - iv. Father, Heavenly Father (referring to God): _____
 - b. According to this context what is it that the hypocrites love?

 - c. According to this context why should we pray and give in secret?

 - d. According to the Sermon on the Mount what statement sums up the Law and the Prophets?

 - i. Does this match the statement that Jesus makes about the Law and Prophets depending on the greatest and second greatest commandment? _____
 - ii. Why or why not? _____
 - e. According to the Sermon on the Mount who is compared to a wise man? _____

While we have not studied every passage about this topic, we have studied enough to assert that we show God that we love Him by obeying His commands.

- I. Thus, what are we telling God if we do not obey his commandments?

- II. In your life, do you show God that you love Him? _____.
- III. How do you show God whether or not you love Him? (Be more specific than “obey his commands”) _____
- IV. In what ways can you get better at showing God that you love Him? (Again, be more specific than “Obey his commands better”) _____

Dispelling misconceptions about Love

This section will endeavor to highlight some of the ways that our modern culture has twisted the idea of “love” into something that is considerably different from what the Bible teaches.

I. Misconception: “Love is only an emotion”

a. In 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 what attributes are used to describe real love? (use another piece of paper to list them)

i. Are these attributes grouped in any particular way?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

ii. Are any of these attributes purely based on emotions? _____

iii. What are all of these attributes? (please choose all that apply)

1. Emotions

3. Attitudes

2. Actions

4. Ways of thinking

iv. Are these attributes self-centered or others-centered? _____

b. In Matthew 5:43-48 who are we commanded to love? _____

i. Is this love based on emotions? _____

ii. What is this love based on? _____

iii. What action is mentioned alongside of this love? _____

iv. Is this love self-centered or others-centered? _____

c. Answer to the Misconception that “Love is only an emotion”

i. Love is a decision to put the needs of others before our own needs or desires.

II. Misconception: “Follow your heart” OR “Trust your heart”

a. In Proverbs 1:1-7 who listens to instruction? _____

i. According to this proverb what will give prudence to the naïve?

ii. In contrast to this; in Proverbs 28:26 who trusts in their own heart (emotions)? _____

- b. In Matthew 15:32-39 what did Jesus say that he felt? _____
- i. Was this emotion produced by knowledge or ignorance?

 - ii. What did this feeling drive Him to do? _____
 - iii. Was this action self-centered or others-centered? _____
- c. In Philippians 1:1-11 what emotion does Paul state that he feels toward the Christians in Philippi? (Hint: look in verses 7-9) _____
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- i. Was this emotion produced by knowledge or ignorance?

 - ii. What did this feeling drive him to do? _____
 - iii. Was this action self-centered or others-centered? _____
- d. In both Matthew 15:32-39 and Philippians 1:1-11 did the emotions in question lead to the person showing one or more of the attributes of love listed in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8? _____
- e. **Answer to the misconception that it is good to “Follow your heart” OR “Trust your heart”**
- i. Emotions can be good tools when they are informed by wisdom. But when they are produced out of ignorance or based on false pretenses, emotions can lead us astray. Thus we should follow God’s wisdom in the Bible, rather than following our hearts.
- f. In your own life do your emotions rule you, or do you control your emotions with God’s wisdom? _____
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- g. In what way can you become less naïve? (Hint: take a look at Proverbs 1:1-7) _____
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