

COUPLES FOR CHRIST CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM

Participant's Handout

SESSION No. 6 : LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

Brief Outline

Loving God and loving neighbor form the inseparable core of the Christian life.

A. Characteristics of Christian Love

- St. Paul describes the characteristics of Christian love and how to love others. 1 Cor. 13:4-8. To love is to be patient; be kind; not jealous of others; not pompous or inflated; not rude; not self-seeking; not quick-tempered; not brood over injury; not to rejoice over wrongdoing; rejoice in truth; have forbearance; have trust and to believe in the best about other people; have hope; have endurance;

B. Loving Others as Jesus Loves

- Loving our neighbor is not an option. It is God's commandment.
- Jesus showed the example of Christian love when he washed the feet of his disciples. When he finished, he told his disciples to do likewise. Jn. 13:12-15.
- Jesus clearly commanded us to love our neighbor as he loves us.
- Our model for loving our neighbor is our Lord, Jesus Christ.

C. Who is our Neighbor?

- Jesus' teaching on loving our neighbor are revealed in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Lk. 10:25-37
- Jesus tells us that loving our neighbor is not a passive attitude but an active involvement.

Jesus said that we should love one another as he loves us. Jesus loves us regardless of who we are. He does not care if we are rich or poor, educated or illiterate, Samaritan or Jew. He died for all of us. He is "neighbor" to us all.

Discussion starter

1. Do you understand the Biblical meaning of love as contrasted with that of the world?
2. How have you failed to love in everyday life?

Scriptures for daily prayer

Day		Day	
1	Matthew 22:37-40 and Mark 12:28-34	4	1 Corinthians 13:1-13
2	John 13:1-5,12-15,34-35	5	1 John 2:7-11
3	John 15:9-17	6	1 John 3:16-18
		7	1 John 4:7-21

The Challenge

Jesus showed us the way to true Christian love by the parable of the good Samaritan, by his washing of his disciples' feet, and most of all by his dying for us on the cross. Are you prepared to love others in the way Jesus loved you?