



TCN

Foundation of Faith

CLASS 7 LOVE

Class Objective

To understand God's love for us, our love nature and the effect of God's love in us.

Outline

1. God's love for us
2. Love as our nature and higher order of life
3. The attributes of love
4. How to walk in love
5. The effects of love in our lives

1. God's Love for Us

God is Love (1 John 4:8). We relate with God based on this. The Christian life is of a relationship with God's love. We become filled with all His fullness when we are rooted and grounded in His love (Eph. 3:15-19).

The greatest expression of God's love for us is Jesus Christ (John 3:16, Romans 5:8). God so loved us, He gave us His Son.

Jeremiah 31:3 describes God's love for us as an everlasting love. Nothing will ever separates us from God's love (Romans 8:39).

God freely loves us. His love is unconditional and covers all humankind. He eagerly awaits us to respond to His love by receiving His greatest gift of love – Jesus Christ.

2. A New and Higher Order of Life

God loves because that is His nature and the expression of His being. The Holy Spirit produces God's nature which is love inside of us (Romans 5:5). Agape love is the God's divine kind of love. It is the highest form of love. It is unconditional, sacrificial, sovereign and perfect (Romans 5:6-8). This love is what the Holy Spirit produces in us (Galatians 5:22). It is the self-sacrificing love that moves us into action and looks out for the well-being of others.

Jesus presents love as a new standard; a new order of living. He stated love to be the highest law (Matthew 22:36-40). Living the godly life is to love God and love our neighbour. This love life is more important than all offerings and sacrifices (Mark 12:33).

Love is a commandment and it is the fulfilment of all commandments. (John 13:34; Deuteronomy 6:5,

Leviticus 19:18; 1 John 2:7-11; Galatians 5:14; Romans 13:8-10)

Love is that law that governs how we live as new creations in Christ. Evidence of Christianity is living the love life (John 13:35). Love is proof of a true Christian conversion (1 John 4:7-8).

3. The Attributes of Love

The attributes of love are described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8:

- **Love is patient**– Love perseveres in the face of delay or provocation.
- **Love is kind**–To be loving is to be considerate, sympathetic, tender, benevolent and helpful to others.
- **Love does not envy** – Love does not have longing for the possession or achievement of others.
- **Love does not boast** (brag) – Boastfulness and arrogance has no place in love. Love does not seek to draw attention to itself or its achievements.
- **Love is not proud**–We must be careful not to allow pride to creep into our Christian walk.
- **Love is not rude** – Love has good manners. It does not act inappropriately nor belittle others. Love shows courtesy and respect.
- **Love is not self-seeking**– Demanding our own way or trampling on the rights of others is not showing love. The one who loves is always considerate of others and their needs.
- **Love is not easily angered**– The person with a 'short fuse' that becomes angry easily is not showing love.
- **Love does not think evil** – Love does not put its mind on what is wrong.
- **Love does not rejoice in iniquity**– The one that

loves is not gladdened by wrongdoings.

- **Love rejoices in the truth**– Love joyfully acknowledges and sides with the truth.
- **Love bears all things**– Love supports and protects others.
- **Love hopes in all things**– Love is full of hope and never ceases to hope.
- **Love endures all things**– Love bears everything with triumphant fortitude.

4. How to Walk in Love

The way to walk in love is to walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16-18,22 Romans 5:5). The God-kind of love has already been put into our hearts by the Holy Spirit when we gave our lives to Christ. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that we are able to obey God's commandment to love.

How do I walk in the Spirit (in order to walk in love)?

- I. Allow God's Word to dwell in you richly (Col. 3:16) – read it, meditate on it, rejoice over its promises to you.
- II. Set your mind on things of the Spirit (Romans 8:4-6,14; Romans 12:2). Doing this will empty it of ungodly things.
- III. Pray in the Spirit (Romans 8:26-28). The Holy Spirit will help you to overcome your weaknesses.

5. The Effect of Love in our lives

- I. We can persevere and trust in God. We are secure in the knowledge that God loves us and wants the best for us in every situation (Jeremiah 29:11; Romans 8:28).

- II. Perfect love drives out fear (1John 4:17-18; Proverb10:12). God's love is unconditional and forgiving.
- III. Faith works through love. Our faith is activated by love (Galatians 5:6).
- IV. Love leads to answered prayers (John 15:7-10; 1John 3:18-22).
- V. Love leads to a deeper knowledge and understanding of God and His ways (Ephesians 3:17-19).
- VI. Love enables us to obey and please God (John 14:15,21; 1John 2:3-5).
- VII. Love is the correct motivation for our work in church and ministry (Galatians 5:13-14).
- VIII. We forgive others in love, just as God forgave and continues to forgive us (1Corinthians 13:5-6).
- IX. Love leads to genuine acts of kindness and good works (1Corinthians 13:5).

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Class Activity

Think of someone who hurt you and you are yet to forgive. Spend the next 15 minute praying for the person that they will be blessed in different areas of their lives. If you are aware of any need(s) the person has, pray specifically that those needs will be met. Then pray and ask the Holy Spirit for the grace to truly forgive and love them.

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Foundation of Faith is a refresher course of The Covenant Nation (TCN), Lagos, Nigeria on the fundamentals of our Christian faith.