



UNIT 3: DEALING WITH MESSY RELATIONSHIPS April 26, 2020

TODAY'S LESSON: LOVE (JOHN 15)

THE QUESTION: *How can I treat others like Jesus did?*

THE POINT: *Let love permeate every relationship.*

MEMORY VERSE: John 15:12 *"This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you."*

Unit 3 Overview – Dealing with messy relationships: A Bible Study on Relationships

Although God created mankind to live in relationship with each other, we can, and do "mess our relationships up," even those we say we love. Problems arise as a result of our sinful nature, jealousy, self-centeredness, selfishness, and unforgiving attitudes. But Jesus **calls us to a higher** standard. He also *empowers us through the Holy Spirit* to act differently toward those around us.

In this Unit we will study traits that, if practiced, will protect our relationships, and help heal the messes we create. The traits are *accepting those who are different; practicing service; exercising humility; offering encouragement; forgiveness*; and the root of all of them is the subject of today's lesson, **LOVE**.

I. LOVING OTHERS IS GROUNDED IN GOD'S LOVE (JOHN 15:9-10)

- God the Father is Love. Love begins with the Father, our Creator, Sustainer and Protector. (**Mat. 7:9-11**). The relationship Jesus shared with the Father is *the model for the relationship* He (Jesus) wants to have with His followers. (**Jn. 15:1-8**) Jesus said *the proof of a believer's love is our obedience*. Jesus asked His disciples to treat Him as He treated the Father. (**I Jn.1 4:31;13:35**)
- A believer's *consistent commitment to obey Jesus' commands is the key to loving God and others human beings*. Disobedience causes a strain in our relationship with Our Savior and everything and everyone. When the "vertical relationship" between believers' and the Lord is strained, most likely all other relationships will be strained.

SPIRITUAL TRUTH: *LOVE COVERS A MULTITUDE OF SINS. JESUS' LOVE FOR HUMAN BEINGS BEING THE SUPREME EXAMPLE.*

II. LOVING OTHERS IMITATES JESSUS' LOVE FOR US (JOHN 15: 11-12)

The "joy" of which Jesus speaks is *the confidence in knowing and trusting in God's Word*. (**Jer. 1:5; Jer. 29:1**) "**Joy Complete**"; should give believers the "joy" and confidence to trust in God's Word. **John 3:29**; As a believer grows closer to Jesus, our joy becomes more complete. *Love + obedience = complete joy*. The joy of a fulfilling relationship with God and people. (**Jn. 3:29; 17:13; 16:20; I Cor. 13**)

SPIRITUAL TRUTH: *WITHOUT CHRIST WE STRUGGLE TO OBEY HIS COMANANDS. I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME*

II. LOVING OTHERS REQUIRES SACRIFICE (JOHN 15:13-14)

- Jesus pointed out that love requires sacrifice. Deep love will sacrifice everything for the benefit of another. Jesus proved His love by dying for humankind and forgiving our sins.
- Sacrifice may include time spent offering encouragement, comfort, or material possessions. It could also mean allowing someone else to shine or lead. Jesus put the needs of others above or own desires.
- Jesus called believers "friends." Our friendship with Jesus is displayed through our willingness to do what he commands, specifically "Love One Another." Our obedience demonstrates the genuineness of our faith and provides a powerful witness to the world.

SPIRITUAL TRUTH: *BE INTENTIONAL TO LOVE SACRIFICALLY LIKE JESUS WITH YOUR ACTIONS, ATTITUDES AND IN PRACTICAL WAYS (USING YOUR TIME, TALENT, TREASURES, ENCOURAGEMENT, WELLNESS CHECK, PRAYERS AND LISTENING.*