

# LOVE

*The ultimate aim of the Christian ministry  
after all, is to produce . . . love.*

1 Timothy 1:5 (PHILLIPS)

*But now abide faith, hope, love, these three;  
but the greatest of these is love.*

1 Corinthians 13:13

The apostle John, inspired by the Spirit of God, sums up all of God's being into one supreme quality and says, "GOD IS LOVE." It follows then that the key characteristic of the life of the Son of God within the believer is love expressed toward God Himself, toward the members of God's family here on earth, toward those outside the family, and incredibly, toward those who make themselves our enemies.

How do I love God whom I cannot see? How do I love my brother whom I can see? Is this love a feeling, an impulse, a sweeping emotional wave that makes the other person's weaknesses, habits, failures, and inconsistencies suddenly of no consequence?

Someone wittily expressed the feelings I may have:

To live above with saints I love, that surely will be glory!  
But to live below with saints I know—well that's a different story!!

This lesson is designed to show the fruit of the Spirit (which is love) in its practical applications toward both God and man. Never lose sight of the fact that this is none other than THE CHRIST-LIFE in its ultimate expression.

This is not a lesson on how to love. Rather, it is what a life of love looks like in the life of a Christian—both toward God and man.

LOVE

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## **I.**

### THE PINNACLE OF LOVE.

#### A. As a goal

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Matt. 22:36-40 | 3. Gal. 5:14     |
| 2. Romans 13:8    | 4. 1 John 4:7-13 |

#### B. As the end result

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Eph. 4:11-16 | 3. 1 Tim. 1:5 |
| 2. Col. 3:14    |               |

## **II.**

### LOVE'S TWOFOLD DIMENSION.

#### A. Toward God:

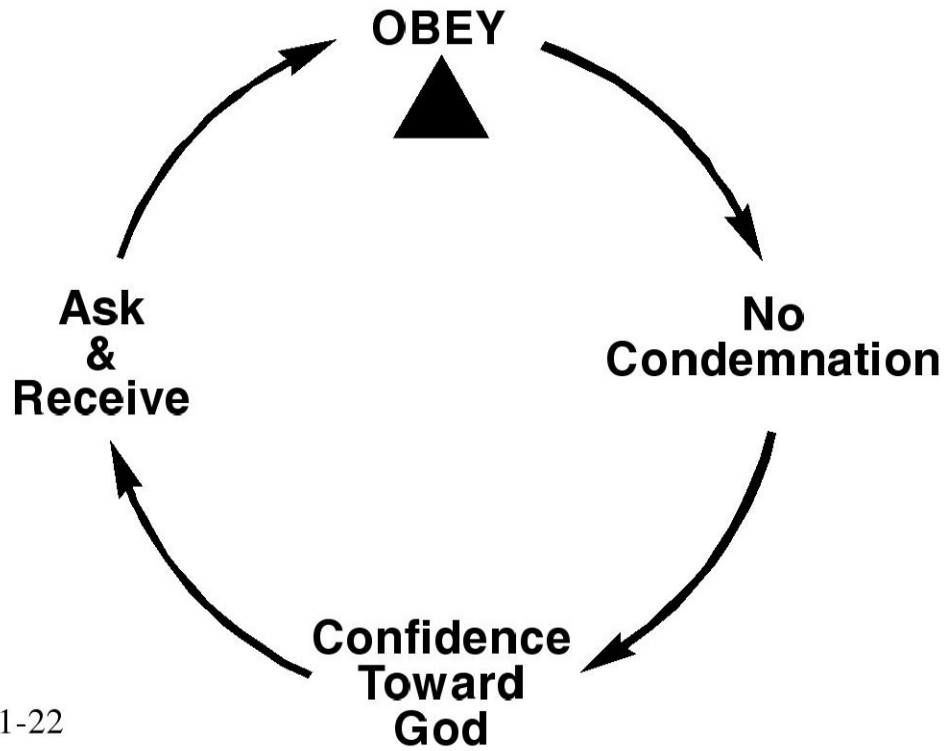
   

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. John 14:23-24    | 3. 1 John 3:21-22 |
| 2. John 15:9-11, 14 | 4. 1 John 5:1-3   |

**220-A**

## **NOTES**

# THE EXPERIENCE OF THE OBEDIENCE CYCLE



1 John 3:21-22

220-B

## **NOTES**

**B. Toward Mankind:**

1. John 3:16

3. John 15:12-13, 17

2. John 13:34-35

4. 1 John 3:10, 14, 16-18

### **III.**

#### **WHAT IS LOVE?**

A. A MOTIVE that is \_\_\_\_\_.

B. A DECISION of the \_\_\_\_\_.

C. A DEED of present \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**220-C**

### **NOTES**

## REVIEW

- Love has a twofold dimension. One is vertical toward God and the other is horizontal toward people.
- Love for God is demonstrated by a life of OBEDIENCE to all He commands.
- Love for our neighbor is demonstrated by GIVING our time, money, and life away to those in need.
- When Christ's life of love rules us, we don't live for ourselves any longer, but for Him and others.
- We don't try to love. Love flows from a relationship with a loving God.



## **NOTES**