



## GOD IS LOVE

### Course 5, *Real Christian Living*, Lesson 1

The Problem: In every heart, there exists a deep longing—to be loved, accepted, and understood. Many search for this love in relationships, accomplishments, or status, only to find disappointment. Others struggle with rejection, feeling unnoticed or forgotten in a world that often seems indifferent.

But what if love—perfect, unchanging, and unconditional—has been available all along?

For centuries, the greatest lie ever told has been that God is distant, demanding, or indifferent. That He waits for people to fail so He can judge them. But nothing could be further from the truth!

The Bible reveals God as a loving Father, filled with patience, mercy, and compassion. His love is unlike any other—it is limitless, unshaken by failures, and completely personal.

This study will uncover the depth of God's love, the truth that He cherishes each of us, and how embracing His love transforms our lives.

#### Objectives:

- I. We recognize how nature testifies to God's love, revealing His care and creativity through the world around us.
- II. We explore how the Bible reveals God's love, demonstrating His compassion, justice, and promises.
- III. We examine Christ's life as the perfect expression of God's love, showcasing His mercy, humility, and grace.
- IV. We reflect on Christ's sacrificial death, the supreme manifestation of God's love, offering redemption to all.
- V. We consider how God's love transforms us—lifting us above the ordinary, providing unshakable security, and shaping a noble character that reflects His own.

#### I. NATURE TESTIFIES TO GOD'S LOVE

Not only does nature provide for our physical needs, but it also nourishes our innate appreciation for beauty. When God created humanity, He placed us in a perfect environment, fully attuned to our needs. Though sin has tarnished that original perfection, the world still reflects His tender love—seen in the grandeur of creation, the intricate design of life, and the simple joys that remind us of His care.

#### The Word:

1. What does the Bible say about God's willingness to provide for us through nature? Psalm 145:15-16
2. How does nature reflect the love, goodness, and beauty of God? Psalm 97:6; Romans 1:20
3. In what way can we regard such things as weeds, thorns, and thistles as evidence of God's love for us? Genesis 3:17-19

Explanation: The abundance of nature—seeds, fruits, nuts, water, oil, metals, and minerals—testifies to God's continual provision for humanity. Yet, how often do we take these gifts for granted, treating them as mere conveniences rather

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*Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).*

than expressions of divine generosity? The Bible reminds us that every blessing comes from God, and He desires our gratitude for His merciful care.

Beyond meeting our physical needs, nature's beauty—the vastness of the sea, the majesty of the mountains, and the radiance of a sunrise—reflects God's desire for His creation to experience joy, wonder, and appreciation. He did not create us as robotic beings, blindly carrying out duties with no sensitivity to the world around us. Instead, He designed us with the ability to delight in the harmony of creation, allowing it to draw our minds to His love and goodness.

Though sin has marred much of earth's original perfection, traces of God's love remain. As Paul taught, nature itself is a witness to God, leaving humanity without excuse in recognizing His presence (Romans 1:20). Even the challenges of life—the toil required to cultivate the land, the persistence needed to overcome obstacles—serve as hidden blessings. Weeds and thorns, reminders of sin's effects, also invite human effort and perseverance, strengthening character and refining the soul. The curse placed upon the earth after the fall (Genesis 3:17) was not meant for destruction but for humanity's benefit, offering trials that shape us into stronger, wiser individuals.

Relevance: How often do we stop and acknowledge the daily evidence of God's love? Some may feel that their world is empty, devoid of beauty or joy, yet God reveals Himself in countless ways. His presence is in the song of a bird, the bloom of a flower, and the laughter of a child. The world still reflects His love, and even in its brokenness, there is so much to be thankful for!

## II. THE BIBLE REVEALS GOD'S LOVE

All of Scripture is designed to reveal God's love, drawing our hearts toward Him. Even the troubling accounts of Satan's corruption and humanity's failures serve as reminders of the consequences of turning away from God. These events would never have unfolded had mankind fully trusted, loved, and served Him. Through every passage, the underlying message of the Bible urges us to recognize His mercy, seek His guidance, and embrace the unwavering love He offers.

The Word:

4. As what kind of Person did God reveal Himself to Moses? Exodus 34:6-7; 20:5-6
5. What did the beloved Apostle John know about the nature of God? 1 John 4:7-8
6. What does God's love for us lead Him to do sometimes? Hebrews 12:6; Revelation 3:19
7. What evidence do we have that God loves us individually? Isaiah 43:1; 49:16; Ephesians 2:4-5

Explanation: God's infinite mercy was revealed to Moses in a deeply personal way. His love is not distant or conditional—it includes forgiveness for those who seek Him, patience with human weakness, and a continual willingness to guide and protect. These qualities were consistently displayed in His dealings with ancient Israel, even as they resisted His guidance and insisted on their own way.

Yet, God's love is inseparable from His justice. Because He is completely free from sin, He cannot accept or tolerate it as normal or right. For this reason, He allows life's challenges to come upon us—not to harm, but to lead us toward Him for deliverance. Sometimes, the trials we face serve as divine discipline, shaping our character and drawing us into a deeper relationship with Him.

Just as a truly loving parent does not neglect disciplining a child, God corrects His people out of love, not wrath. His chastisement is never arbitrary—it carries the purpose of refinement, growth, and restoration. We may feel the sting of discipline, but our names are written on His hand, and each trial is designed to lead us closer to His heart.

Relevance: If you believe in God and commit your life to Him, you are secure in His love—a love that transcends circumstances. *“All things work together for good for those who love God”* Romans 8:28. This means that every experience—whether joyful or painful—is overruled by His wisdom for the ultimate benefit of those who trust Him.

It’s important to remember that what God allows, He does not necessarily cause. Many trials stem from the actions of Satan and sinful people, but even in the midst of difficulty, God works all things for good. He redeems suffering, transforms pain into purpose, and uses life’s hardships as a pathway to deeper faith and victory.

### III. CHRIST’S LIFE EXEMPLIFIED GOD’S LOVE

Jesus Christ was God in the flesh, the supreme Deity, who came not only to reveal the true character of God but also to offer Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. See Colossians 2:9. His life was a living testimony of divine love—compassionate, selfless, and unailing.

When we look at Jesus, we are seeing God’s love in action. Through His miracles, His teachings, and His willingness to suffer for humanity, Christ demonstrated the depth of God’s love and His desire to reconcile us to Himself. Every moment of His earthly journey reflected God’s heart—a love so pure that it chose to bear the weight of sin so that we might have eternal life.

The Word:

8. According to the New Testament, how do we come to know God the Father? John 1:18; 14:8-11; Matthew 11:27
9. What was Christ’s special mission while He was here on earth? Luke 4:18
10. Give two examples of Christ’s great love for those in need. John 8:3-11; 5:2-9

Explanation: Jesus made it unmistakably clear that His union with the Father is so profound that to know Him is to know God. The disciples encountered the very nature of God by knowing Jesus, for He is the perfect revelation of the infinite character of God. Christ’s ministry was a seamless blend of healing and salvation—each miracle of physical restoration served as a tangible demonstration of His power to transform sinners. He did not merely heal bodies; He renewed minds, restored souls, and freed the oppressed from the grip of sin and darkness. Through His life and works, Jesus revealed the heart of God as no one else ever could—compassionate, redemptive, and full of divine love.

Relevance: Jesus remains just as accessible today as He was to the repentant sinner and the suffering soul He healed at the pool of Bethesda. His forgiveness is available for all, and His ability to heal—both spiritually and physically—has never diminished. For those who seek Him earnestly, He promises to be found (Luke 11:9). His love is unwavering, His power is undiminished, and His presence is near to all who call upon Him.

### IV. CHRIST’S DEATH WAS THE SUPREME MANIFESTATION OF GOD’S LOVE

The death of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary stands as the supreme demonstration of God’s love—a love so profound that it defies human comprehension. No sacrifice could ever surpass this, no suffering could compare, and no other atonement could ever suffice to redeem humanity and restore our relationship with God.

Through His death, Christ bore the full weight of sin, offering Himself as the perfect and all-sufficient sacrifice. His love was not merely spoken—it was poured out, sealing the promise of salvation with His own blood. This act of divine mercy remains the ultimate proof of God’s unailing love, calling every soul to repentance, redemption, and eternal reconciliation with Him.

The Word:

11. What caused Christ’s suffering on the cross? Isaiah 53:5-6; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24

12. Why did both the Father and the Son suffer when Jesus was on the cross? Matthew 27:46

13. What does John say is the great evidence of God's love for us? John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-10

Explanation: In bearing our guilt upon the cross, Jesus experienced a profound separation from the Father, willingly enduring the severing of their infinite, mysterious unity. The suffering they bore was beyond human comprehension—immeasurable, unfathomable, and infinite in its intensity. We can only stand in awe, grasping glimpses of this great sacrifice, knowing that in the heavenly Kingdom, the atonement will remain a study for all eternity. This was the supreme evidence of God's love—a love so complete that nothing more could have been done to redeem a fallen world. The greatest tragedy is the rejection of Jesus' sacrifice, for in it, God has poured out all the love of heaven.

Relevance: God's love longs for a response. Just as any act of selfless kindness hopes for appreciation, God desires a heartfelt return of love and gratitude for His greatest sacrifice. To ignore or dismiss such divine mercy is to turn away from the deepest love ever shown. But for those who seek Him, His love remains unchanging, calling us to embrace Him fully in devotion and thanksgiving.

## V. HUMANITY IS ELEVATED BY GOD'S LOVE

Without God's love dwelling within us, the heart becomes self-centered, consumed by earthly concerns. It is His love that cultivates an appreciation for all that is beautiful and pure, and it is His presence that awakens a genuine concern for others—a compassion that transcends selfishness. Without divine love, human nature is left unchecked, leading to pride, callousness, and disregard for others. But Christ transforms us, shaping our hearts into vessels of kindness, humility, and grace—the very essence of the love God intends for His children to reflect.

The Word:

14. What does God's love make us? 1 John 3:1-3

15. What attitude to others will we have when God's love dwells in our life by the holy Spirit? 1 John 4:7, 12-13

16. Give an example of a person who was changed by the love of Christ from being a hating killer to a loving brother. Acts 8:1; 9:1-6; 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Explanation: When God's love fills the heart, it transforms us into His true sons and daughters, shaping us to love one another and extend that love to all humanity. Where Christ's love reigns, there is no room for pride, lust, greed, materialism, or dishonesty—for His presence purifies the soul, making it a dwelling place for holiness and grace. God's love refines character, instilling gentleness, integrity, and kindness. The sweet graces of Jesus shine through a life ruled by His love, replacing hatred and bitterness with compassion and affection.

A powerful example of this transformation is seen in the life of the Apostle Paul. Despite his intellect and cultural standing, Paul once persecuted those who did not share his beliefs. Yet, after encountering Jesus Christ, he was compelled by divine love to dedicate his time, talents, and energy to uplifting fallen humanity. Paul understood what it meant to be made new in Christ. His life became a living testimony of redemption, proving that when Christ's love becomes the guiding principle, true transformation follows.

Relevance: If you open your heart to Jesus and invite Him in through the Holy Spirit, you will be made new in Christ. His presence will transform your life—replacing old, flawed ways with His perfect wisdom and guidance. Where there was once harshness and pride, there will be gentleness and grace. Where sin once held sway, holiness will take root, shaping you into a true child of God.

His love brings peace instead of turmoil, trust instead of fear, and love in place of hate. No earthly treasure can compare to the joy and fulfillment found in surrendering to God's love. No human relationship can offer the deep, abiding satisfaction that comes from knowing Jesus personally.

Will you accept Him today, rejoice in His unfailing love, and allow Him to live His life through you? His arms remain open, ready to transform and fill your heart with the fullness of His divine presence.

### *Review Questions*

1. True or False
  - a. God's love is only for those who love Him
  - b. There is much in nature that still reveals God's love.
  - c. Christ's death was the supreme manifestation of God's love.
  - d. God's justice is a contradiction of His love.
2. Discuss: If God's love is infinite, why does He allow suffering in our lives? How can we reconcile the presence of pain, injustice, and hardship with the boundless love of God?

Throughout history, people have wrestled with this profound question. Some view suffering as a consequence of human free will, while others see it as part of a greater redemptive plan. Could it be that hardship refines us, deepens our dependence on God, and strengthens our faith? Perhaps suffering allows us to experience grace and transformation in ways we otherwise could not. Rather than a contradiction, could God's love be present even in suffering—offering hope, endurance, and ultimate restoration? Exploring this question requires reflection, biblical wisdom, and an understanding of God's greater purpose beyond what we immediately see.

What are your thoughts? How do you find meaning in challenges while holding onto the certainty of God's love?

Further study: Ellen G. White, [Steps to Christ](#), Chapter I.