

Lesson 7: A Portrait of Love

A. The centrality of *agapé* love

1. What theme do you hear in Paul's testimony about *agapé* love to Christians in Corinth? 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
2. How can we be filled with such amazing love? Romans 5:5, Luke 11:13
3. What prophecy regarding *agapé* love did Jesus give concerning the last days of earth's history? Matthew 24:12
4. Where do you see a lack of *agapé* love in the world today?
5. Share a time when you saw the *agapé* love of God revealed.

B. A description of *agapé* love

1. 1 Corinthians 13:4a,6b-8a What positive aspects of *agapé* love are highlighted in these verses?
2. Which of these positive aspects of *agapé* love impacts you the most?
3. How does Paul's description of *agapé* love in Galatians 5:22-23 reinforce the testimony found in Romans 5:5?

C. What *agapé* love is not

1. 1 Corinthians 13:4b-6a What are some things *agapé* love does not do?
2. Why doesn't the Apostle Paul simply focus on the positive aspects of *agapé* love?
3. Which of these negative characteristics are most common in our world today?
4. Which of these negative characteristics has been displaced from your life as you have been filled with the *agapé* love of God?

D. *Agapé* love revealed in the life of Jesus

1. Where do you see the *agapé* love of God revealed in the life of Jesus? John 13:1, Mark 10:16, Matthew 14:14, etc.
2. What appeal did Jesus make to His disciples in response to His *agapé* love? John 13:34, 15:9,12
3. How did the Apostle John respond to this revelation of God's *agapé* love? 1 John 3:1,16, 4:12

E. The greatest of these is *agapé* love

1. 1 Corinthians 13:13 How did the Apostle Paul conclude his discussion about *agapé* love?
2. How important is faith for the Christian? Hebrews 11:6, Ephesians 2:8, 1 John 5:4, etc.
3. How important is hope for the Christian? 1 Thessalonians 4:13, Romans 15:13, etc.
4. Why is *agapé* love greater than even saving faith or enduring hope? Colossians 3:14, 1 John 4:12, etc.