

## God's Love

### Objective

To understand God's love and how to love one another

### Scriptural Verse

"Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (**John 15:12-13**)

### References

- † 1 John 4:7-11
- † John 17:24
- † Ephesians 4:5
- † Romans 5:8
- † John 1:8
- † John 3:36

### Lesson Guidelines

In John 4:7-11, John explains that:

- † Love is from God
- † God is love
- † The one who loves is from God

### How do we describe God's love?

- † Unselfish - giving of Himself to bring goodness and blessings into our lives, despite the fact that we do not deserve this love. This is expressed in:
  - Creation
    - **John 17:24** – The Lord Jesus said that God loved Him before the foundation of the world.
    - **Ephesians 4:5** – God loved us before the creation of the world.
  - Cross – God sent His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus to die on the cross in order that we can have eternal life. His death is atonement for our sins.
- † Unconditional – no restrictions and no limitations. This concept is difficult for us to grasp because:
  - It is unreasonable
  - We feel unworthy
  - We feel guilty
  - Society has taught us otherwise
- † Unlimited – The unlimited love of God met the unlimited justice of God to remove our penalty as well as His unlimited anger that was brought upon us by our sin. You cannot separate the love of God from His justice which demands penalty for sin

- In **John 3:36** we see the deliberate punishment of sin to the unbeliever but the discipline of God's children.
- The Love of God is available to everyone, however, when people choose to rebel against God and die, they are condemned to eternal separation. God does not cease to love such a person but it is their choice to defy and curse God even as they are dying.

### **Love for one another**

We need to learn from God's unconditional love in order to love one another.

- † If your love for somebody is based on their performance, the relationship will not last.
- † True love means complete commitment.
- † Unconditional love makes no demands.
- † We were created in the image of God and God is love, thus our image and character should be that of God's.
- † Love is one of the first fruit of the Holy Spirit in our life (**Galatians 5:22**).

### **Conclusion**

God is love and we should be the same. The Lord told the disciples that this is how people would know that they were His disciples – by their love for one another.

### **Activities/Discussion Points**

Divide the group into smaller groups to discuss the following:

1. How to show your love to a sinner
2. How to show your love to a stranger
3. How to show your love to an enemy