

Ephesians Series

Lesson #192

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Dean Bible Ministries

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The God Who Loves
1 John 2:15; 1 John 3:9–13



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

Joy/Inner Happiness/Tranquility of Soul
James 1:3; John 15:11: 17:13

**Personal Love
for God**
Deut. 6:5

**Biblical Love for All;
Christian Love for
Other Believers**
Lev. 19:18; Jn. 13:34, 35

**Occupation with
Christ**
Heb. 12:2; Php. 3:20

Personal Sense of our Eternal Destiny
Col. 3:24; 1 Pet. 1:4

Faith-Rest Drill
Prov. 3:5, 6

Grace Orientation
Eph. 2:8, 9
2 Pet. 3:18

**Doctrinal
Orientation**
2 Pet. 3:18

Walking by the Spirit/Filled by the Spirit
Gal. 5:16

Confession of Sin, 1 John 1:9

What we have learned so far:

- **Understood two types of love: “Biblical Love for All Mankind” and “Christian Love for One Another.”**
- **Christian love is developed as part of the fruit of the Spirit, and thus is not something we develop on our own.**
- **Love is the *sine qua non* of the Christian life, 1 Cor. 13:1–3.**
- **The characteristics of love are the opposite of self-centeredness and arrogance, 1 Cor. 13:4–7**

An attempted definition of Christian love:

Love is a mental attitude toward others which desires the best for them according to the standards of God's integrity and thinks and acts toward them consistent with that desire and standards. Christian love is impossible apart from a walk by the Spirit and spiritual growth.

Previously we Learned in 1 John 2:3–11

- 1. John is writing to believers to explain the differences between the believer who is living in fellowship with God and the believer who is not.**
- 2. “Abiding,” “Walking in the light,” “Knowing God,” “walking as Christ walked,” are terms describing the believer who is obedient and maturing in His spiritual life and love for God.**
- 3. The believer who is not walking in fellowship, walking in partnership with God the Holy Spirit and maturing is disobedient, walking in darkness, and does not love God or His brother.**

Conclusion

“Hating his brother” means the one who hates must also be a believer.

- 1. We only have fellowship with one another as we are walking in the light.**
- 2. The one who loves his brother abides in the light.**
- 3. The one who hates his brother is in darkness, walks in darkness.**
- 4. The one who walks in darkness lies and is not doing the truth.**

What the Bible Teaches About

Understanding Biblical Love



What 1 John Teaches About

Love



Negatively

1 John 2:15, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love for the Father is not in him.”

1 John 2:5, “But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.”

James 4:4, “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

Second grouping is in 1 John 3:9–18

1 John 3:9, “Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.”

Abiding = fellowship, therefore this is talking about something more than simply being born again.

The one walking in fellowship/walking by the Spirit is not able to sin because He has been born of God.

Gal. 5:16, “I say then: Walk by means of the Spirit, and it will be impossible to bring to completion the lust of the flesh.”

1 John 3:9, “No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.

1 John 3:10, “By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.”

“Children” is *tekna*

1 John 3:10, “In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

1 John 3:11, “For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,”

*** Practicing righteousness goes along with loving one another. Thus, describing the one walking by the Spirit, living step by step in dependence on the Spirit and His Word.**

Gal. 5:25, “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

στοιχέω *stoicheō* 1 plur pres act subj to walk in line with, “to be in line with a person or thing considered as standard for one’s conduct”

The standard for our conduct is the Word of God, revealed in the process of writing by the Holy Spirit.

**Some translate this walking “in step with the Spirit.”
The stepping stones are the Word of God.**

From 1 John 3:10–11 we learn:

a. The believer should love one another.

b. Some believers hate their brothers.

c. Believers who hate their brother are not practicing [*poieo*—“doing”] righteousness and are not of God, i.e., not abiding, not walking by the Spirit, not living in close partnership [fellowship] with God, not living as a child of God.

- d. Believers who are not “of God,” are not those who lost salvation or are unsaved, but they are not living in light of their new birth, their new identity in Christ.**

- e. The one who hates his brother is walking in darkness, is not doing righteousness, is in darkness, walks in darkness, is not doing the truth, and is not maturing in his love for God (1 John 1:6; 2:11)**

Further

1 John 3:14, “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

1 John 3:15, “Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.”

This death is carnal or operational death, the believer living like a spiritually dead person.

The “eternal life” not abiding is the abundant life of the growing believer (John 10:10).