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BIBLE STUDY

OUTLINE

LOVE

A young man was once asked the meaning of love and his response was very interesting. He said "Love is an ocean of emotions surrounded by expenses". Relatable right? Good! But today we want to attempt to understand what love is from scripture, by the help of The Holy Spirit. Let's delve in!

LOVE

A healthy definition of love is crucial to understanding the central message of the Bible. According to the Bible, love is not confined to sexuality, and it isn't primarily a feeling either. The Bible teaches that love is a commitment. As a commitment, love is not dependent on good feelings but rather on a consistent and courageous decision to extend oneself for the well-being of another.

LOVE

That commitment then produces good feelings, not the other way around. Jesus became the perfect demonstration of God's unconditional love for us by laying down His life for our benefit. So if there is a pattern to follow to fully imbibe the concept of love, look unto Jesus!

What is Love?

Anchor Scripture: "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance." (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NLT)

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Love is a command, not a feeling!

(John 13:34, John 15:9-13, Mark 12:30-31) Love is the ability to overcome offences by grace. Love is also the elimination of barriers, allowing oneself to be light and salt regardless of the circumstance, objections, and opinions of others. Love is not a feeling because if it were based on our feelings the difficulty of loving our enemy and blessing those who curse us, confirms that love could never win. Instead, love is confrontational, causing believers to confront any preconceived opinion, while examining Jesus' instruction to "love your neighbour as you love yourself."

Love is unconditional!

(Romans 5:8, John 13:35, 1 John 4:20-21, 1 Peter 4:8) Unconditional love is limitless, it's human standard to see love through dirty lenses full of hurt, rejection, and unforgiveness. Hurt people, hurt people. The love of God reaches the heavens and its faithfulness to the clouds, to love how God loves we must spend time in His presence.

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Love heals!

(Matthew 8:3, Mark 5:25-33) When love touches the broken it repairs when love acknowledges the hidden it builds confidence, when love lances out to the deep, it walks on water, when love is pure it is just, and when love has a few ingredients it can feed thousands.

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Love heals!

When Jesus touched (or was touched), He healed. God's agape love is supernatural. The same authority, power, and strength that rose Jesus from the dead is inside you and is there to empower you to touch and heal. Here is our challenge for you.

These are 3 characteristics we believe that if every growing believer will portray, the world will be a better place to be in, and the Gospel of Jesus will reach all men!

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Love heals!

(We will call it the 3R's)

1. Removing oneself - Philippians 2:3 says "Don't do anything for selfish purposes, but with humility think of others as better than yourselves.
2. Remember grace - Ephesians 4:32 reads "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
3. Relationship with God - "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." - John 15:5

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Let's answer these:

1. How do I love God wholeheartedly?
2. How do I love my neighbours unconditionally?

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Above everything, remember that
LOVE PREVAILS!