

# Inside Out: Reflecting Christ with my Emotions

## SESSION 5 THIS IS LOVE

1 JOHN 4: 7-12 (NIV)

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<sup>7</sup> Dear friends let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how God showed love his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> **THIS IS LOVE:** not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.



## Discussion on Olivet Discourse & the Anointing at Bethany

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Before we begin our discussion today, I want to review the passages from our homework one by one. I found a website that lists the parallel texts side by side, which is really helpful, though I wish that it had the NIV. Nonetheless, it's a great resource.

<http://www.para-gospel.com/section/emphbbl/14.TheOlivetDiscourse>

<http://www.para-gospel.com/section/emphbbl/16.ThePassionNarrative>

The passages we covered this week are.:

- Prediction of the Destruction of the Temple
- Signs Before the End
- Persecutions Foretold
- The Desolating Sacrilege

- False Christs and False Prophets
- The Coming of the Son of Man
- The Time of the Coming. The Parable of the Fig Tree
- Take Heed, Watch!
- Parable of the Flood and Exhortation to Watchfulness
- Parable of the Good Servant and the Wicked Servant
- Parable of the Ten Virgins
- Parable of the Talents
- The Last Judgement/ Sheep and Goats
- The Anointing in Bethany—There is a lot of emotion expressed and implied in this passage. How would YOU have felt in this circumstance. What do we learn about Jesus and Mary from this?

## SESSION 5 : REFLECTING LOVE WHEN IT HURTS

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This week Valentine's Day prompted me to revisit a lot of passages in Scripture about love. As we've stated throughout this study, LOVE is the foundational emotion or state of being that God shows us throughout his word even when that is manifest through a negative emotion. Our culture is very obsessed with the idea of love and acceptance when it is affirming, but we can all become uncomfortable with the sacrificial love that we'd like to beg off.

Last week, we learned that we are already created and designed physically and emotionally to be like God and the reflection of Christ. Imagine that there is a rose-colored filter over all that we know about Jesus. That filter is love. Whatever he does, whether it is overturning tables, or cursing fig trees, crying over Jerusalem, or calling Lazarus from his tomb, it comes through love. LOVE is the filter. AND, moreover, since GOD IS LOVE, and JESUS IS GOD, there is no scenario where Jesus is NOT acting in love. So his angry judgments and predictions are LOVING.

We, however, can choose to break off, disconnect from the vine and demonstrate all kinds of behavior that isn't motivated or influenced by love. Even when we SAY we are acting in LOVE, we might not be influenced by his SPIRIT (big S) so we are really just showing self-love, self-protection, and selfishness.

We know this. I don't need to spell it out. BUT, this week, I thought we would drill down into the passages the most focused on his love to figure out what his love looks like, how we can emulate his love, and how can we know that we are actually reflecting his love.

### LIVING IN LOVE

1 JOHN 3:1-3 & 3:10-5:5 (NIV)

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**3** See what **great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!** And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.<sup>2</sup> Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears,<sup>[a]</sup> we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

1. What is one of the ways that the Father has lavished his love on us?

..... <sup>10</sup>This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: *Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.*

2. How do we know if this lavish love applies to us?

3. Who are our brothers and sisters?

## More on Love and Hatred

<sup>11</sup>For this is the message you heard from the beginning: **We should love one another.** <sup>12</sup>Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. <sup>13</sup>Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, <sup>[B]</sup> if the world hates you. <sup>14</sup>**We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other.** Anyone who does not love remains in death. <sup>15</sup>Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

4. How do we know if our spirit has passed from being DEAD to being alive with Christ's Spirit?

<sup>16</sup>**This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.** <sup>17</sup>If anyone has material possessions and **sees a brother or sister** in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? <sup>18</sup>**Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.**

5. How do we know what love is?

6. WHO should we be willing to lay down our lives for?

7. How should we NOT LOVE?

<sup>19</sup>This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: <sup>20</sup>**If our hearts condemn us,** we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Dear friends, **if our hearts do not**

**condemn us**, we have confidence before God <sup>22</sup>and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.

8. What do you think this passage means about our heart condemning us or not condemning us? What kind of conviction is this?

<sup>23</sup>**And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.**<sup>24</sup>The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. **And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.**

9. What does God command of us?

## On Denying the Incarnation

**4** Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

<sup>4</sup>You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>**We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit<sup>[a]</sup> of truth and the spirit of falsehood.**

10. Lots of this passage seems to indicate that we are meant to be showing love to our brothers and sisters and fellow believers, but what about those who are outsiders or enemies? What if they don't have the Spirit of truth? (Hint: Col 4: 5-6; Matt 5: 44; Luke 6: 27-36; Mk 12: 30-31)  
<http://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-how-to-treat-others-a-bible-study/>

# God's Love and Ours

<sup>7</sup>Dear friends, let us love one another, for **love comes from God**. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.<sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.<sup>9</sup>This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

<sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

11. Where does love come from?
12. How did God show us his love?
13. What is love?
14. How is God's love made complete in us?

<sup>13</sup>This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>**If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.** <sup>16</sup>And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

15. How do we know and rely on the love that God has for us?
16. Vs. 12 says "No one has \_\_\_\_\_" but vs. 14 says, "we have \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_" to WHAT? Vs. 15 uses the verb \_\_\_\_\_.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.<sup>17</sup>This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

<sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. **For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.** <sup>21</sup>And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

17. SO, based on what we saw above about seeing, and testifying, and acknowledging, WHAT IS THE PROOF of our FAITH?

## Faith in the Incarnate Son of God

**5** Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. <sup>2</sup>**This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.** <sup>3</sup>In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.<sup>5</sup>Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

18. And how do we know if we are genuinely showing love to the children of God?
19. What are his commands? (Hint: 1 Jn. 3:18)

# **HOMEWORK: SESSION 5**

## **JOHN 13-17**

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I admit, I'm about to Kay Arthur you, but I really want to force us into this text as it is SO critical to understanding Jesus's priorities here at the end of his life.

- 1. Write or type out this entire passage. I KNOW; IT'S LONG. Don't put this off, especially if you are writing. It will take a while, but it will be a good way to engage with the text.**
- 2. Use a highlighter or crayon to color each mention of GOD's love. Use pink if possible. Put a heart in the margin.**
- 3. Use a highlighter or crayon to color each mention of OUR love. Use yellow if possible. Draw a sunshine in the margin.**
- 4. If you want, follow the above instructions for other significant words: GLORY, UNITY, OBEY, ETC. (ie: orange crown, green leaf, blue exclamation point)**
- 5. Make a list of 5 takeaways about how YOU are meant to reflect God to the world.**