

Lesson 7

GOD'S Love

By Darrell Crow

Not So Basic Christianity — Study Guides For Discipleship

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LESSON 7

Not So Basic Christianity: Biblical Study Guides For Discipleship

By

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1.0 First Discussion Questions

1. Describe God's Love?

2. How Can God Be A God Of Love And Allow Disease, Birth Defects, Accidents, Famine?

3. How Can God Be A God Of Love and Allow Crime, War and Tragedy?

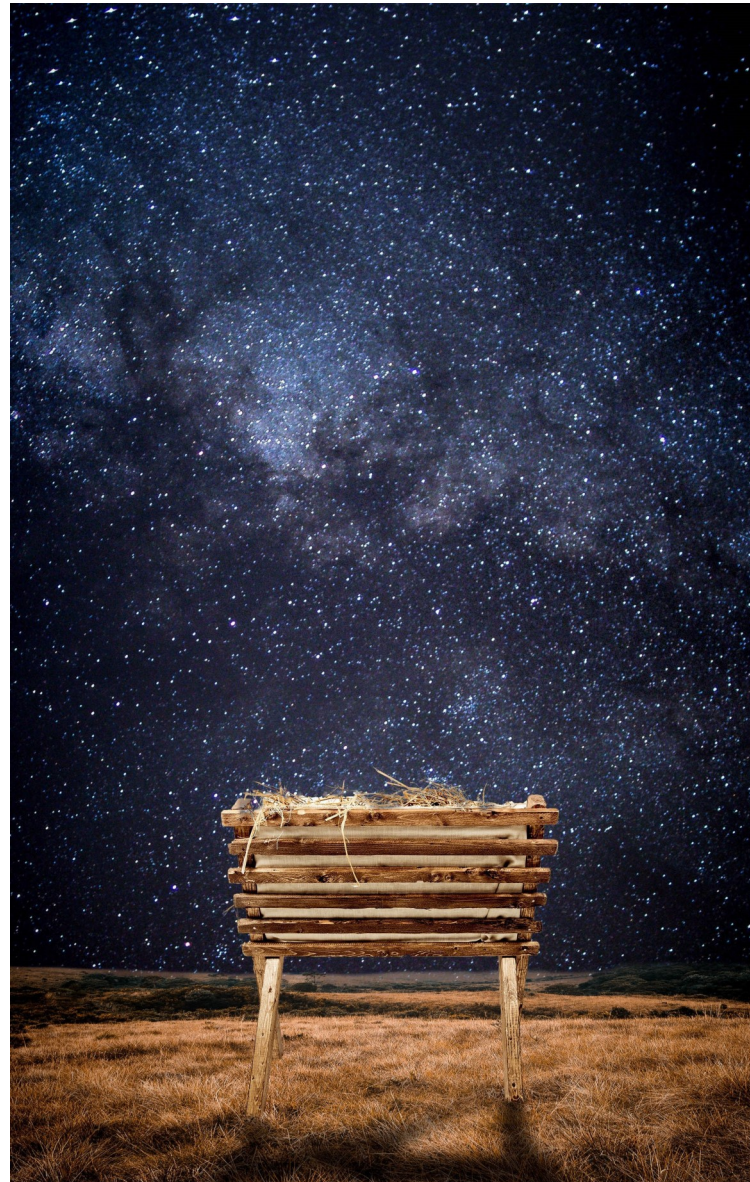
4. What Conditions Does God Place Upon Us To Receive His Love?

5. Does God Love Bad People? How Do You Feel About That

6. Is God's Love Different Than Spousal Or Parental Love?

2.0 God Is Love

If there is one attribute that people love to embrace, it is the fact that God is love. Unfortunately, the world doesn't really understand God's love and tries to characterize God according to natural man's misconception of love. "A loving God wouldn't send people to hell." "A loving



God just wants me to be a good person." "A loving God will allow me to live my life my way so long as I attend church weekly, etc." ... But if this is not love from God's perspective than what is God's love.

This word encapsulates for Christians, God's mercy, grace and loving-kindness. God is not like the deities of other religions who are thought of as angry and hateful and

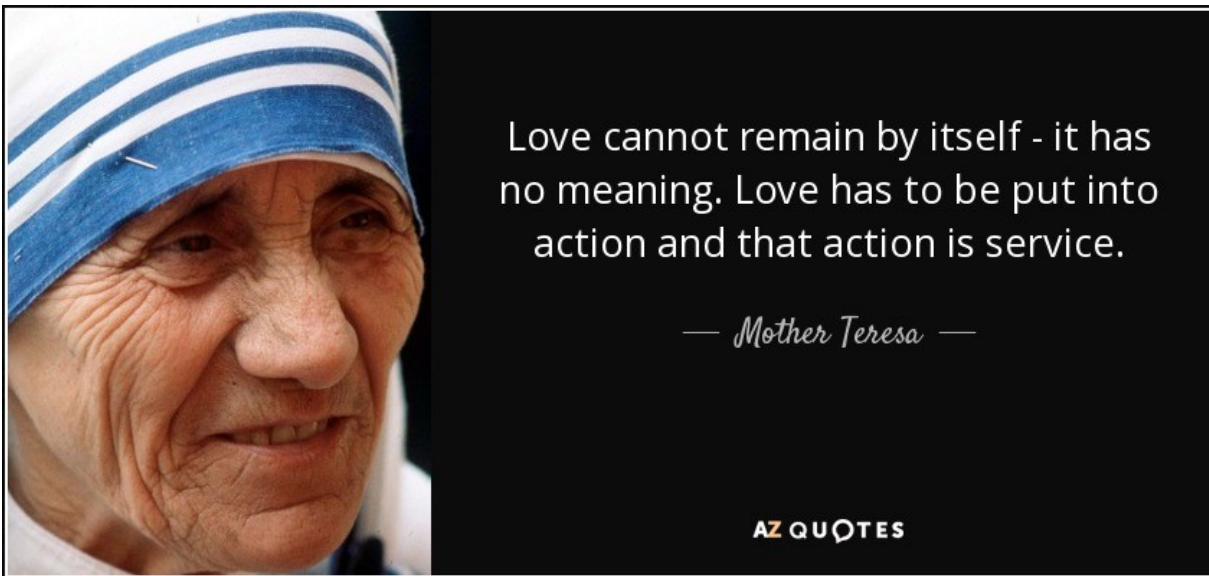
man must prove himself worthy of that deity's attention, respect, guidance and affection. Thankfully, these 'deities' do not exist. God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible is loving towards His creatures. He wants to share a personal relationship with us. 1 John 4 talks extensively about God's love. Not just that God *has* love, but that God *is* love.

- *1 John 4:7-21 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. [8] The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. [9] By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. [10] In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. [11] Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. [12] No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. [13] By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. [14] We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. [15] Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. [16] We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. **God is love**, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. [17] By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. [18] There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. [19] We love, because He first loved us. [20] If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. [21] And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.*

- *John 3:16 "For **God so loved the world**, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

Dictionaries' definition of love gives us a solid solution, an affection, a romance, and a stability that comes from another person. The Biblical definition of love is totally different. God's love is sacrificial, a love that gives first and expects nothing in return.

When the Bible says, "God is love," the Bible isn't telling us that God is some warm and fuzzy feeling of love. The Bible says that God is love which means that **God defines love**. And when we say that God defines love, we mean that **God is the very definition of love itself**. There is no such thing as love without God.



As hard as we might try, we cannot define love outside of knowing God. God in His immensity is all love. There is no love existing anywhere in the universe that God does not contain. God is love. This means that our human definition of love which depends upon our feelings of grati-

fication is false, God's love is unconditional and man's love is conditional. To know God is to love like God, unconditionally.

God is the Creator of all things, and by His very nature, He is love. God says love is unconditional and sacrificial, and it's not based on feelings; therefore, love is not an "intense affection... based on family or personal ties".

To understand what true love is and to be able to truly love others, we must know God, and we can only do this through a close personal relationship with Him. We can have that close relationship with God by putting our faith in Jesus Christ, who was God's sacrifice of love for us.

Romans 5:8 says But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Before we existed God made a very special decision based solely on love to rescue man from his fallen state. This love catapulted God into action. Look at Romans 12:9 –

13 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. [10] Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; [11] not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; [12] rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, [13] contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

True Godly Love causes action. It is impossible for a maturing Christian to watch all the heartache and see the needs in this world and simply do nothing. God is the motivator compelling us to meet the needs of Christians and non-Christians alike, to stand out and speak in defense of our faith, to point out evil and demand corrective action. Love. God's love causes us to be His voice and to take action.

Mother Theresa understood this principle well when she stated , Love cannot remain by itself — it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action and that action is service.

- *1 John 4:7-11 God is Love! As such, true love -- us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. [8] The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. [9] By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. [10] In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. [11] Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. "*

A relationship with God is like no other relationship you may have ever experienced. God has a unique kind of love for you. It is unconditional

(not based upon meeting certain conditions). God loves you because He loves you.

God does not love you based upon your performance. There is nothing you can do to cause God to love you any more than He already does — and there is nothing that will cause God to love you any less. He loves you, even more than you love yourself.

Until now you have probably only experienced conditional love. Conditional love is based upon what you do. Perform well on the job, on the team, in the marriage or any relationship, and you are “loved.”

God’s love is not just a feeling. It is initiative and action. Jesus Christ

loved the world so much that He gave everything for it, from His rights and privileges as the unique eternal Son of God, to His very life! If you want to see the love of God, look to the cross.

- *1 John 4:9-10 "By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. [10] In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."*

- *Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*





God's love towards us is dramatically seen in the sacrifice He made on our behalf. *"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."* [John 15:13].

- *Jeremiah 31:3* God says, "The LORD appeared to him from afar, saying, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.".
- *Romans 8:38,39* For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which

is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- *John 3:16-17* This is God's love! "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. [17] For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

In Jesus Christ, you will find total love and acceptance. This may be hard to comprehend if you've never felt totally loved and accepted by anyone before. But it's true! Unfortunately, you won't always feel that God loves you. There will be times when you find yourself doubting not only His love, but also His existence. You'll feel like giving up. Don't. When God gave you a new life, it didn't come trimmed in lace and smelling of perfume.

Jesus began His earthly life in a stable. He tasted real life, and that will be the flavor of your journey with Christ—real life but with the promise of His presence with you.

3.0 Final Discussion Questions

1. Is God's Love Conditional or Unconditional?

2. How Is God's Love of Believers Different Than Unbelievers?

3. Will God Mourn The Lost?

4. When Did God First Love Man And Why?

5. How Did God Prove His Love For Man?

Not So Basic Christianity

Bible study guides includes all the lessons below. Ideal for personal growth and Bible Study groups.

God

Lesson 1: The Purpose Of Life
Lesson 2: God's Will For You
Lesson 3: God Almighty
Lesson 4: God Is Sovereign
Lesson 5: God's Attributes
Lesson 6: Eternity
Lesson 7: God's Love

Creation

Lesson 8: Heaven
Lesson 9: Angels
Lesson 10: Hell
Lesson 11: Satan And Demons
Lesson 12: Earth And Man

Foreknowledge, Election, Predestination

Lesson 13: God's Foreknowledge
Lesson 14: God's Election
Lesson 15: Predestination

The Elect

Lesson 16: Election Of Man
Lesson 17: ELECTION Of Angels
Lesson 18: Election Of Israel
Lesson 19: Election Of Jesus

Restoration

Lesson 20: The Fall Of Man
Lesson 21: Salvation
Lesson 22: Eternal Security
Lesson 23: Order Of Salvation
Lesson 24: Called Of God
Lesson 25: Conversion
Lesson 26: Regeneration
Lesson 27: Righteousness
Lesson 28: Justification
Lesson 29: Glorification
Lesson 30: Sanctification

Discipleship

Lesson 31: The Great Commission
Lesson 32: Spring Cleaning
Lesson 33: Manna
Lesson 34: Staying In The World
Lesson 35: Witnessing
Lesson 36: Ministering

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Bible study guides includes all the lessons below. Ideal for personal growth and Bible Study groups.

End Times

Lesson 37: The Rapture

Lesson 38: Prophecy

Lesson 39: The Great Tribulation

Lesson 40: Revelation—The Rest Of The Story

Lesson 41: Seven Seals, Two Interludes

Lesson 42: Seven Trumpets, Seven Interludes

Lesson 43: Seven Bowls and Seven More Interludes

Lesson 44: Antichrist, False Prophets, The Abomination That Causes Desolation, Armageddon

Lesson 45: Israel, Tribulation Saints

Lesson 46: Marriage

Lesson 47: Pre-Millennial & The Millennial Kingdom

Lesson 48: The Final War and Judgement

Lesson 49: New Heavens & New Earth

Lesson 50: Restored



In a lay-leader class at Medway Community Church of Medway, MA a few years ago, I was challenged to defend my faith and the doctrines I held dear. I found myself embarrassed as it was quickly apparent that I was ill equipped to either defend or explain my beliefs.

Less than two weeks passed and I was again challenged in a local Men's Bible study. To my discredit, I once again was unable to defend my beliefs.

I resolved to correct this deficiency and set out to thoroughly study the Scriptures and document my findings on salvation and Jesus' teachings in an organized fashion. My original objective was to put together a short "white paper" to define and support my position and beliefs on predestination. God wanted me instead, to become His disciple in a life long pursuit of truth. I quickly found myself asking more and more questions that compelled me to constantly research, study and document. My goals expanded broader and faster. This study required me to put aside all my biases, read God's word freshly and intently, discuss with scholars and read numerous documents on Christian doctrines. I lost track of time, so involved were my studies. It has now been over a decade since I first undertook the quest to write a simple white paper.

God has been especially gracious in guiding my study of His revealed word. This study has been a true joy. The more I studied, the more in awe of our Almighty God I became. I was compelled from within to continue worshipping, studying, fellowshiping, and serving Him.

Quick Notes About the Author

- Married, father of three children, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.
- Saved in 1974 at FBC Church, San Jose, CA
- Tutored by lay leaders, ministers, authors, teachers, scientists and philosophers
- Currently member of FBC Bellingham, MA under the ministry of Pastor Rodrigues
- Challenged in 2 bible studies by my lack of understanding biblical doctrines. I resolved to correct this deficiency and committed myself to becoming a disciple of Christ
- These study guides summarize God's teachings and chronicles God's plan to restore Man for eternal fellowship with Him.

NOT SO BASIC CHRISTIANITY

A Series Of Seven Study Guides For Discipleship

God's desire to share Himself and fellowship with mankind sparked God to plan, elect and create all things. Man was created for eternal fellowship and love with God. God elected (planned and made choices) all things prior to speaking the Universe, and all life into existence. And His Creation was "Very Good."

God

Creation

Foreknowledge, Election, Predestination

The Elect

Restoration

Discipleship

End Times