

LOVE IN ACTION

In our twenty-first-century world, people have many different definitions of love. Many of these come from the illustrations of love found in movies, on television, in advertisements, online, and, perhaps, from personal experience. The Scriptures speak directly about love. The Bible tells us what love is and how we may demonstrate it.

WHAT IS GENUINE LOVE?

1. How is love defined?

a. What are some dictionary definitions for love that reflect a secular viewpoint?

b. How does a Bible dictionary define love? _____

c. How do the two differ? _____

2. From 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, list some of the characteristics of *agape* love.

WHAT LOVE IS	WHAT LOVE IS NOT
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Based on this passage, what are two or three major conclusions you can make about love?

3. Carefully read 1 John 4:8-21.

a. What important fact about God do you see in verses 8 and 16? _____

b. What has God done to demonstrate His love for us? _____

c. Because of God's love for us, what should our response be (verses 11, 19)?

d. To what degree can love and fear exist together (verse 18)? _____

THE FOCUS OF YOUR LOVE

4. From the passages you have studied, how would you define love in your own words?

5. Read John 13:34-35.

a. What is one of the surest evidences that you are a follower of Christ?

b. Why do you think Jesus placed such emphasis on demonstrating love?

Love enters into everyday actions in a variety of ways. Many people relate to others with only the tacit agreement "If you do your part, I'll do mine." This conditional way of giving of ourselves is not love. God wants us to say, "I'll love you even if I receive nothing in return." It is this selfless giving and loving that God wants developed in our attitudes and actions.

LOVE IN HUMILITY

6. Humility comes from having the right perspective about God and ourselves. What do the following verses tell us about our perspective toward God and ourselves?

Jeremiah 9:23-24 _____

Philippians 2:3-4 _____

7. Read 1 Peter 5:5-6.

a. What does the passage teach about humility? _____

b. Why do you think God places such a high value on humility in a person's life?

8. Consider Romans 12:3.

a. What error must we be careful to avoid? _____

b. What are the results of overestimating ourselves? _____

c. What are the results of underestimating ourselves? _____

PRIDE

Thinking too highly of self: "God's work can't get along without me!"		Thinking too lowly of self: "God can't do anything through me!"
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Both situations in this illustration are manifestations of pride because the person is preoccupied with self.

9. Summarize the relationship between love and humility. _____

LOVE IN SPEECH AND ACTION

10. Read Colossians 4:6 and write a paraphrase of it. _____

11. God can give you gracious and loving words. According to the following verses, what can the right words do?

Proverbs 12:25 _____

Proverbs 15:23 _____

Proverbs 16:24 _____

Proverbs 23:16 _____

Love is not merely an inner feeling but also an act of the will. Love can be known by only the action it produces.

12. Read 1 John 3:16-18. Indicate how love can be demonstrated toward others.

13. List some practical ways you personally can demonstrate love toward Christians and non-Christians.

Christians

Non-Christians

To love the whole world
For me is no chore;
My only real problem's
My neighbor next door.

— C. W. VANDERBERGH

SUMMARY

Review the chapter subtopics and write your own summary of each section.

What Is Genuine Love?

The Focus of Your Love

Love in Humility

Love in Speech and Action

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 6

1. *Scripture Memory*: Study and complete “Scripture Memory Guide—Week 6” (pages 51–52). Memorize the verse(s) on “Must Receive Christ”: John 1:12 and Romans 10:9-10 (recommended but optional).
2. *Quiet Time*: Continue reading, marking, responding back to God in prayer, recording on *My Reading Highlights*, and using a prayer sheet.
3. *Bible Study*: Complete the Bible study “Purity of Life” (pages 52–58).
4. *Evangelism*: Listen to those who still need to tell their “My Story” with or without notes in less than four minutes.