

Day 1

After watching the brief video online, read through 1 John 4:7-21 below making observations, interpretations and applications. (I have triple spaced it to give you plenty of space...mark it up!

1 John 4:7-21

⁷ 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. ¹⁷By 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We 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. ²¹And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

1. Complete this chart as you finish up today, look back at weeks 1 and 2 if you need a refresher on Observing, Interpreting or Applying: (remember: Pray First!)

Observations (Who, What, When, Where, key words, etc.)	Interpretations (What does it mean?)	Applications (How does this impact or change my daily life? SPECS)

Day 2

Reflecting back on 1 John 4:7-21, answer the following:

1. Who is the source of love? (vs. 7) _____

2. Is an unbeliever capable of real love? (vs. 7) _____

3. How should this fact impact our walking through life with them? What we may expect of them?

4. Is it possible for a believer to not love? (vs. 8) _____

5. Who enables us as believers to love and live? (vs. 9) _____

6. Key word: Define Propitiation:

7. Personalize it: what does it mean to you that Christ is your Propitiation?

8. What reason do we have to love one another? (vs. 11)

9. How do we know, what proof is given that we abide in God? (Hint: vs. 13 “by this” is referring back to vs. 12)

10. How is love perfected with us? (Hint: who must we abide in?) For further study look to John 15:1-11

11. Can we love God if we allow hatred to take root in our hearts? _____

12. Application: Are you being perfected in love so that you may have confidence in the day of judgment and not live in fear? How are you seeing this through your daily life?

If you are unsure of this in your personal life, in your walk with the Lord, if you are struggling with loving others, seek the Lord – pray as we see Paul praying for the Philippians that the Lord will cause your love to abound more and more through knowledge – knowing God through His word!

As we have built a strong foundation in understanding the importance of love in our lives, in understanding how God views love. That biblical love is not a blind love but is controlled by a biblically discerning heart indwelt by the Holy Spirit - while emotions and feelings can be involved, neither are the source or foundation for our love, our love is

mandated by our Savior, provided by God and fleshed out in our daily lives by the power of the Holy Spirit. Biblical love is a continual act of obedience.

But, what does biblical love look like?

We will spend the rest of this week answering that question.

Day 3

Today we are going to spend time meditating on a passage often referred to as: “the love chapter”, 1 Corinthians 13. Try to read through 1 Corinthians 13 with fresh eyes and a fresh heart, making observations, interpretations and applications. (I have triple spaced it to give you plenty of space...mark it up!

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become

a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have *the gift of prophecy*, and know

all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but

do not have love, I am nothing. ³And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if

I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is

not arrogant, ⁵does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not

provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*, ⁶does not rejoice in

unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷bears all things, believes all things, hopes

all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never fails; but if *there are gifts of prophecy*, they will be done away; if *there are tongues*, they will cease; if *there is knowledge*, it will be done away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part; ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. ¹³ But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

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Day 4

Reflecting back on 1 Corinthians 13, answer the following:

1. Verses 1-3 go to great lengths to express a central theme: it doesn't matter what I do, or how great I am...without love, it is all worthless. Complete the chart below giving a present-day, real-life example for each:

Action	Present Day Equivalent or application	It's value Without Love
"Speak with tongues of men and of angels" (remember when scripture speaks of "tongues" these are actual spoken languages)		"...noisy gong or clanging cymbal" - neither is pleasant
Know all mysteries Have all knowledge Possess great faith		I am Nothing
Sacrifice all I own and even my body for those in need		Profits me nothing

The bottom line here is, anything we do that isn't done in love is worthless...

Have you ever experienced someone teaching the truth, but lacking love? It can be hard to glean from their teaching because what they say comes across more as judgmental, scathing remarks or ends up sounding like a clanging cymbal...I always think of Charlie Brown's mom...a bunch of yapping with no real discernable words...meaningless speech.

Today we are going to do a little more self-reflection, evaluating how we may be failing to love others in the eyes of Christ without even realizing it. Take the time to walk through this...I won't ask you to write in your answers, this is more of an exercise to help each of us see where we need to focus on improving...I know writing it has helped me see areas where I am falling short.

Have you ever attempted to admonish or give advice to someone, but your wisdom wasn't rooted in love? I know I have, a good self-check on the source of your wisdom, to make sure our words are an overflow of the love of the Holy Spirit:

- Have I prayed over this?
- Is my heart grieved for them?
- Is what I want to say rooted in pride?
- Do I have an "I have all the answers" attitude?
- Will my words be beneficial? Admonishment is rarely encouraging, in the moment, so don't get me wrong...it will probably sting a little, but am I admonishing someone just for the sake of letting them know they are wrong, or will it be helpful in their sanctification?
- Am I always the person admonishing others?
- Do I look for ways others are wrong and I am right?

How about in our actions, our giving, our sacrificing for others? Do we tend to want to make sure others know how hard we are working or what we are sacrificing for them?

Do we find ourselves tempted to post to social media when we give to those in need or serve?

Do we find ourselves wanting to remind our husbands or children how much we do for them and what a great sacrifice we make for them, losing focus that it is truly Christ we sacrifice for and serve?

Finish out today by praying over any areas the Holy Spirit may have revealed to you that you need to make changes.

3. What does it mean to act unbecomingly?

4. What does it mean to not be provoked?

5. What does it mean to not take into account a wrong suffered?

6. What does it mean to bear all things?

7. What does it mean to endure all things?

Take a moment to prayerfully reflect on your heart through the lens of this passage, circling the areas listed above that you need to focus on.

How well are we loving our husbands? Our children? Our parents? Our siblings? Those the Lord has entrusted to our care? Our neighbors?

“Love never _____...” (vs. 8) – That’s a promise worth remembering! It makes sense, though, doesn’t it? God is the source of love, He is love, and He never fails!

But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

May we walk through our days remembering this...the importance that God places on love. – Be Blessed!