

Lesson 1 — God's Love

The Wheel of Faith

Big Idea

God's love is not merely something we feel toward Him; it is the divine power by which God enters our lives, recreates us in Christ, and becomes the foundation of all genuine faith and obedience.

Why This Study Matters

Many distortions of the gospel begin not with bad intentions, but with an unclear understanding of God's love. When love is reduced to emotion, obligation, or religious duty, faith quietly shifts from Christ to human performance. This study restores love to its biblical place—as God's initiating and transforming action in Christ—so that faith, obedience, and assurance flow from the gospel rather than replace it.

Opening Frame — Why Love Must Be Redefined

Introduction:

The word *love* is familiar, but familiarity can mask misunderstanding. Scripture presents love not as sentiment, but as God's active initiative toward humanity.

Group Question:

- When you hear the word *love*, what ideas or experiences come to mind first?

1. Where Love Begins — God's Initiative

Read: 1 John 4:7–8, 19

Key Truths:

- Love originates in God's nature, not human emotion.
- Human love is always a response, never the source.

Group Questions:

- What do these verses say about where love begins?
- How does knowing that God loved first change how we relate to Him?

2. Love as Transforming Power

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:14–17

Key Truths:

- The love of Christ *constrains*—it acts upon us.
- Being in Christ results in new creation, not self-improvement.

Group Questions:

- What does it mean that the love of Christ “constrains” us?
- If Christ’s love is strong enough to ‘control’ or ‘constrain’ your life... what kind of person does that turn you into?
- If someone experiences that kind of love... does it leave them the same, or make them new?

Theological guardrail: When the power of God’s love comes into us there is a real desire to change, rather than trying to be a good person. A New creation is something that comes from God rather than self-regulation!

3. Receiving Love — Not Producing It

Read: Romans 5:5

Key Truths:

- God’s love is poured into the heart by the Holy Spirit.
- Love is experienced internally, not generated by effort.

Group Questions:

- What might it look like to receive love rather than trying to earn it?
-

4. Love, Obedience, and Growth

Read: John 15:9–10

Key Truths:

- Obedience flows from abiding in His love, not fear.

Group Questions:

- How does love change the motivation behind obedience?
 - How can a fearful image of God impact our perception of him?
 - How might the relationship between a parent and their child help us to understand the relationship between love and obedience?
-

5. Love and Spiritual Growth

Read: Ephesians 3:17–19

Reflection Questions:

- Why must believers be rooted and grounded in love before attempting to live a spiritual life?

Theological guardrail: because without love for God being the original motivation we run the risk of an imitation spiritual life instead of Real one.

6. Christ-Centered Reflection — God’s Love Seen at the Cross

Companion Reading — *Steps to Christ*

“Such love is without a parallel. Children of the heavenly King! Precious promise! Theme for the most profound meditation! The matchless love of God for a world that did not love Him! The thought has a subduing power upon the soul and brings the mind into captivity to the will of God. The more we study the divine character in the light of the cross, the more we see mercy, tenderness, and forgiveness blended with equity and justice, and the more clearly we discern innumerable evidences of a love that is infinite and a tender pity surpassing a mother’s yearning sympathy for her wayward child.”

— *Steps to Christ*

Group Reflection Questions :

- What stands out to you most in this description of God’s love?
 - How does the cross clarify what love truly means?
 - How does love “bring our mind into captivity” and “subdue our souls” and what does this mean?
-

Closing Emphasis

God's love is not merely the beginning of the gospel—it is its sustaining power. Where Christ is lifted up, love does the transforming work.

Part 2 Experiential Reality — How Is Love Working in Me?

A 7-Day Journey of Beholding and Transformation

Day 1 — Behold the Love Displayed

Is there a difference between knowing about Jesus and deeply studying His life?

- It is one thing to possess information about Christ.
It is another thing to behold Him.

Scripture never presents transformation as the result of mere data, but of sustained contemplation.

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image...” — 2 Corinthians 3:18

The word *beholding* implies continued, intentional gaze — not casual awareness.

- Spend some time today intentionally contemplating something from the life of Christ

Prayer time: ask God to help you see the life of Christ in a way that will impact your life.

Day 2 — Romans 5:5 says God's love is “poured into our hearts.”

- Contemplate and meditate on what might be the results of his love being poured into your heart.
- When God pours his love into your heart what things might need to be drained out?

Prayer time: ask God today in prayer to shed his love in your heart, and ask him to reveal anything in your life that might need to be drained out of your heart.

Day 3 — The steps to Christ quote says, “*The thought has a subduing power upon the soul and brings the mind into captivity to the will of God.*”

- Read today one of the gospel accounts of the final days of Jesus, but before you do ask God in prayer for spiritual discernment.

Prayer time: Pray today about what you thought and felt from your reading.

Day 4 — In what ways has your understanding of God's love: {write out your responses}

- reduced fear?
- increased assurance?
- changed how you relate to obedience?

Prayer time: ask God to help you in these three areas where there still might be need.

Day 5 — If God's love is meant to transform and recreate us, where do you most need that transforming power right now?

- Make a list of things that you want to be transformed by God's love

Prayer time: Take this list and begin a daily prayer life asking God to let his life of love flow into you and help you

Day 6 — What role does the bible play in knowing the love of God? Choose a passage about Jesus and contemplatively study the details. Ask questions about how this reveals God's love

- Write down your reactions and convictions or motivations that the passage elicited in you.

Prayer time: pray specifically today about what the passage brought to your mind

Day 7 — how has this seven day journey contemplating about the love of God impacted you this week? {write out your response}

- If you were to continue this practice what might the results be on your Christian walk? Your relationships and marriage?
- What were any changes you noticed this week?
- Share with somebody this week one take away about the love of God's impact in your life.

Prayer time: ask God today to help you continue a devotional life centered around his great love for you, and ask him to change your life by his love.

