

Sunday School Lesson for the Month of June 2016

What the Bible Says About Loving Your Neighbor!

(Matthew 22:39)

Sunday, June 5, 2016

In the two great commandments, our Lord presents in capsule form the total requirements of the law of God as it relates to our obligations to God and our fellow humans. We are to love God supremely and steadfastly. We are to love our neighbor as ourselves. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus defines the good neighbor as one who ministers in mercy to those who are in need along life's pathway. He uses the example of the Samaritan as a demonstration of the royal law of love.

I. Love is the law of the Kingdom of God.

Love is the law of the King; it takes precedence over every other law. To obey the law of love towards God and towards others is to make life royally happy.

- A. We are to love God supremely (Matthew 22:37).
- B. We are to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:39).
- C. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it (Ephesians 5:25).
- D. The followers of Christ are to love each other even as Christ loved them (John 13:34).
- E. The Disciples of Christ are to love even their enemies (Matthew 5:43-44).
- F. John tells us that love for our fellow Christians is one of the proofs that we have a living relationship with God (1 John 3:14). Absence of love in the heart is proof that one does not have eternal life (1 John 3:15).

Sunday, June 12, 2016

II. The Royal law of love illustrated – (Luke 10:25-27)

Jesus used the example of the Good Samaritan to illustrate the love that we should demonstrate for our neighbor. Some of the characteristics of the love that He would commend can be discovered by a study of this incident.

- A. Love reacts to suffering with compassionate concern.
- B. Love responds to need with action.

- C. Love is willing to suffer inconvenience for the sake of others.
- D. Love is generous in its provisions for others.
- E. Love is courageous in the face of danger and is willing to be exposed to risk.
- F. Love does not hesitate to cross racial barriers.
- G. Love ignores religious differences.
- H. Love is patient and persistent in its expression.

Sundays, June 19 & June 26, 2016

III. The difficulty of obeying the commandment to love our neighbor.

- A. People are not always lovable! It is not easy to love some people!
- B. People do not always respond to love. Sometimes, love is rebuffed and rejected.
- C. Christian love is something above and beyond natural love. Christian love is not superficial. It is a persistent unbreakable spirit of goodwill toward others.
- D. We can be enabled to love the unlovable when we recognize the value of each person in the eyes of God.

God loves people to the extent that He gave His Son to die for them. If God could see something in a person that was worth redeeming, then it behooves each of us to follow His example.

Paul describes love as being the supreme gift of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:31 – 14:1). In writing to the Romans, he speaks of the love of God as being poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5).

The God who so loved that He gave His Son for us will enable us to live by the Royal Law of love if we are willing to let His Spirit bestow upon us this capacity, this gift of love for our fellow humans.