LOVE

Seeking the highest good for others and oneself, with unselfish motives.

MARK 12:30,31
v30 "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." v31 The second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these. (NASB)

OPPOSITIVE: Hate
DEFINITION AND DISCUSSION (NA)

1. What is LOVE? How would you define it? (Let everyone share). Memorize the following definition taken from the reverse side of this sheet.

LOVE = Seeking the highest good for others and oneself with unselfish motives.

2. What does it mean "to seek the highest good?" (to seek what's best)
3. Why should we seek the highest good for others? (it is God's will)
4. Why must love be unselfish? (God's love is unselfish; it is our example)
5. Give some examples of love that fit the above definition. (giving food to the poor, helping a neighbor who is sick, doing other unselfish acts)
6. Why is spanking a way that parents can show love to disobedient children? (spanking seeks the highest good for children by teaching them to obey)
7. Why does a doctor show love to a boy with a broken arm by setting the break? (To heal right, the bone must be set. This is the highest good.)
8. Why does love sometimes inflict pain in seeking the highest good?
9. Read Heb 12:6. Why do you think that God disciplines those He loves?
10. According to John 14:21, how do we show love for God? (by keeping His commandments) Is this always painless? (No! It is sometimes hard.)
12. What is God's New Commandment in John 13:34-35 and what does it show? (We are to love one another as Christ loved us. This shows others that we are Christ's disciples.)
13. If people could observe how you act in your home day to day, would they be convinced that you are God's disciple? Why or why not?
14. What are some ways your family has shown sacrificial love for you?
15. What does Matthew 5:44 teach about love? (to love our enemies)
16. Describe a time you showed love to an enemy? How could you do it now?
17. Read Mark 12:30. Who are we to love first and foremost? (God) Why?
18. What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength? (we are to love Him with every part of our being)
19. Read Mark 12:31. Who else are we to love? (ourselves and our neighbors)
20. If a person hates himself, can he really love his neighbor? Explain.
21. What does Psalms 103:11-12 teach us about God's love? (it's infinite)
22. Read 1 Peter 1:22. What does it mean to love fervently from the heart?
23. Read 1 Peter 4:8. How does love cover a multitude of sin? (heals hurts)
24. In 1 Peter 4:9,10, what are ways we can show love for one another?
25. Describe one thing someone did for you that really made you feel loved?

APPLICATION AND ACTIVITIES

1. SPECIAL NOTE: There are at least three types of love in Greek, the language of the New Testament. "Eros" is sensual love. We get the English word "erotic" from eros. "Philia" is brotherly love. We get words such as Philadelphia (the city of brotherly love), from philia. "Agape" is God's love. When God talks about us loving one another, He is referring to this love. "Agape" love is unselfish and seeks the best for others. Memorize these three types of love.

2. How could agape love be shown in the following situations:
   a. You meet someone at school who forgot to bring his lunch.
   b. You see a bully at school picking on someone.
   c. You hear of a family who had their house burn down.
   d. Your mom is sick in bed for a week.

3. List three ways you can show more love toward God. Do them this week.
4. List specific ways you can show more love to your family members. Make a plan to do these things this week.
5. Do you have any enemies that you should love? How might you show them love this week? Come up with a plan and do it.
7. Plan a service project to show love to one of your neighbors.

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