

LOVE (*agape*—Godly Love) part 1-B

GOD THE SON

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT



...baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the *Son* and of the *Holy Spirit*... Matthew 28:19

God the Son

Day 1: Outline Hebrew 1:1-14. Who is Jesus Christ according to this passage? Do you agree with the writer's assessment, or did these verses only pertain to Biblical times? Why did Jesus come to earth as a human? (See Matthew 1:23.) How significant is this to you?

Day 2: Summarize Philippians 2:5-11 and Hebrews 2:18. How can someone be totally sinless? How could Jesus be human and do all the things He did?

Recap other passages that claim Jesus and God are one. How is He one with the Father?

- Proverbs 30:4
- John 10:22-30
- John 17:1-5
- Acts 10:38
- Colossians 1:15-20

Day 3: Compare Revelation 22:16-17 with John 4:1-14 and Mark 10:46-52. How do these passages verify that God the Father and God the Son are equal?

Day 4: How is Jesus *God* in these verses? Summarize what you read. Are you surprised at what you uncover in these passages? Explain.

- Matthew 8:23-27
- John 1:1-5, 14
- John 4:24-26

- John 5:16-23
- John 20:17

Day 5: Read John 8:13-59. Record the arguments that Jesus had with the church leaders. Why was it so difficult for the Pharisees to believe what Jesus said? Do you find His words incredible yourself? Could you explain them in a simple way to someone else?

Day 6: What are physical evidences that He was indeed a human being? Why is it important that God the Son be totally man? Summarize what you read about Jesus as man in these verses.

- Matthew 4:1-2
- Matthew 27:50, 59-60
- Mark 4:38
- Luke 9:58
- John 4:7

Day 7: List the metaphors that John uses to describe Jesus. Are these examples relative today? Do they encourage you? If yes, in what ways? What do they tell you about *agape* love?

- John 6:35
- John 10:7
- John 11:25
- John 12:35
- John 14:5-6

Day 8: Read some questions that Jesus asked various people throughout the Gospels. Having never seen or been with Him personally, how would you answer these interrogations if they were addressed to you personally?

- Matthew 9:28

- Matthew 16:13-15
- Mark 6:40
- Mark 10:51a
- Luke 6:46
- John 5:6

Day 9: Read John 2:4. In 50 words or less write a small paragraph summarizing Jesus' purpose on earth. What is the gospel in a nutshell?

Read these overviews from three different men in the New Testament.

- John 12:42-50
- Acts 2:22-24
- 1 Peter 1:18-21
- Revelation 1:5-8

Day 10: Recap the visual picture of Leviticus 16:3-22 of the holiest Day of Atonement for the Israelites. Why did Aaron have to undergo a symbolic cleansing? What was the significance of the two young goats? Why was one goat sacrificed and the other set free? How is this an image of Christ's death on the cross?

Day 11: Using a thesaurus or dictionary, do a study on the word *reconciliation*. List synonyms / antonyms / definitions. Explain how Jesus brought men back to God. What is a "ministry of reconciliation"? How important is this in the ideology of Christianity?

Read these passages that might also help in understanding this fundamental principle.

- Romans 5:6-11
- 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
- 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10
- Ephesians 2:14-18

- Hebrews 2:10-11

Day 12: What were other features of Jesus' calling while on earth? Write at least one facet from each of these verses. How does each demonstrate *agape* love?

- Matthew 12:1-8
- John 4:34
- 1 Corinthians 15:57
- 2 Corinthians 8:9
- 1 John 2:1

Day 13: Read Luke 7:18-23. When John the Baptist raised legitimate questions about the divinity of his cousin, what was Jesus' answer? Was Christ angry that John had doubts? Why didn't Jesus send a direct answer? What does this passage tell you specifically about others who claim to be the Messiah? What measuring rod can you use to determine the validity of their claims?

Read what others claim about Jesus. What do these declarations tell you about the God/Man Jesus Christ?

- Luke 4:33-35
- Luke 7:16-17
- Luke 18:18-19
- Luke 23:39-43
- John 20:24-28
- Acts 8:34-38

Day 14: How precious is the name of Jesus? Does it matter how we speak His name (i.e., flippantly, reverently, prayerfully)? What do these passages tell you about the manner in using His name?

- John 20:30-31

- Acts 3:6; 4:9-10
- Romans 10:11-13
- 1 John 3:23
- 3 John 1:5-8

God the Holy Spirit

Day 15: Compare Genesis 1:1-28 and Psalm 104:1-23, 27-30. What pronouns does the writer use when recording God's conversation (Genesis 1:26, 3:22)? Who is He talking to? Is this significant to who God is?

Day 16: Consider examples where a group of three parts make up one object/personality (i.e. egg - egg yolk, egg shell, egg white; H₂O- water, ice, steam; etc). Can these parts be separated? Can they operate individually? Think of words that reflect three of something (i.e. *tricycle*).

How do these passages help to explain the Trinity of God (sometimes called *Godhead*)?

- Luke 3:21-22
- Ephesians 3:14-19
- 1 Timothy 3:16
- 1 John 5:6-8

Day 17: Explain the following passages: John 3:22-36; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Titus 3:4-7. How does this describe the Trinity? Does each Person of the Godhead act independently? Are They unified in purpose?

Day 18: Using a thesaurus or dictionary, do a study on the word *spirit*. What is the difference between the human spirit, an evil spirit and the Holy Spirit? Compare/contrast these different spirits. How can you know which is holy? Does one spirit warrant reverential fear over another? Explain.

- Genesis 2:7
- Psalm 51:10-11

- Acts 16:7; 18:5
- Acts 19:11-16
- 1 Corinthians 15:45-49
- 1 John 4:2

Day 19: Consider these passages that help to define the third member of the Trinity. How do they reflect God? How do they demonstrate *agape* love?

- Isaiah 61:1-3; Luke 4:16-24
- John 3:3-8
- 2 Corinthians 3:3, 17
- Philippians 1:19
- 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8

Day 20: Notice that God the Father is the heart of the Old Testament. The four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) traces the life of God the Son. The remainder of the New Testament trumpets the work of God the Holy Spirit. Why do you think Their presence is in this order? Why did the Holy Spirit become evident at the end of Jesus' ministry? Study these passages:

- John 7:37-9
- John 16:5-15
- John 20:19-22
- Mark 1:6-8; Acts 1:4-8
- 1 John 3:24

Day 21: A living, breathing being can think ideas, make choices, work a job, etc. What evidence is there that the Holy Spirit is not just a concept but an actual living entity? Make a list of actions that you would associate with the Holy Spirit.

What verbs would you find in these verses?

- Matthew 1:18

- Mark 13:9-11
- Acts 5:1-4
- Acts 13:2
- Acts 15:28

Day 22: Summarize 1 Corinthians 2:9-16 (Isaiah 64:4). What do you glean from these verses? What do they tell you of the character of the Holy Spirit? Does this change your personal views in any way? If yes, in what way?

Day 23: Do you agree that if men and women were made in the image of God, then human emotions should correspond with those of the Godhead? What negative or positive feelings do you suppose the Holy Spirit has?

Label an emotion to each of these verses. Are you surprised at what you read? What might cause Him to feel the way the verse indicates?

- Isaiah 63:10
- Matthew 12:32
- Acts 7:51
- Romans 15:13
- Ephesians 4:30
- James 4:5

Day 24: Explain the depth of love the Holy Spirit shows in Romans 8:9-17, 26-27. Why is the presence of God the Holy Spirit vastly important in today's world? What are evidences that He is working in your life?

Day 25: If Jesus Christ did only the tasks which God the Father told Him to do (see John 4:34; 5:17-20), what assignments do you suppose the Holy Spirit has been given? List any of Jesus's

responsibilities that come to mind. Then read the following passages to discover the Holy Spirit's mission.

- Nehemiah 9:20
- John 14:16-17, 26
- Acts 9:31
- Acts 10:38
- 1 Thessalonians 1:5-7
- 1 Peter 3:18

Day 26: How does God the Holy Spirit work in a person? Are there variations in His acts and that of God the Father and God the Son? If Jesus Christ Himself walked beside you in bodily form, would it be different from the Spirit's invisible presence? Would your actions change? How?

Reword these verses and discover how the Holy Spirit functions in a believer.

- Acts 4:31
- Romans 15:15-16
- 1 Corinthians 12:3
- Ephesians 1:13-14
- 2 Peter 1:19-21

Day 27: Read accounts of two men selected to minister to the early church (Acts 6:1-7): Stephen in Acts 7:8-15, 54-60 and Philip in Acts 8:26-40. Are their actions any different than a nonbeliever's? If yes, in what way? How did submitting to the Spirit's direction bring about reconciliation to the known world?

Day 28: Make a list from the following passages, including gifts, manifestations, and fruit of the Spirit. What is the difference between *gift*, *talent*, and *fruit*? Why is it necessary that new believers be presented such endowments?

- Acts 20:28
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (Hebrews 2:4)

- Galatians 5:22-23 (Ephesians 5:9, 18)
- Ephesians 4:11-13

Day 29: Read of an account when Peter understood that salvation did not exclude Gentiles in Acts 10:1-23; 11:12-18. How did the Holy Spirit work in this incident? If Peter had not heeded His call, would God have used someone else? (See Jeremiah 29:13.)

Day 30: How does God the Holy Spirit guide, comfort, instruct today and never be seen or heard audibly? Where does He reside? How do these passages demonstrate *agape* love? Has your understanding of the Trinity changed because of this study? Explain.

- Isaiah 63:11
- 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20
- 2 Corinthians 13:5
- 2 Timothy 1:13-14