

Study Guide: 1 John Lesson 75-“Exhibiting Perfect Love”

Wednesday-September 2, 2026

This study guide explores the nature of God’s love as presented in the fourth chapter of 1 John. It examines how God’s essence defines love, the difference between His general kindness to the world and His perfect love for His children, and the sacrificial model provided by Jesus Christ.

Short-Answer Quiz

1. According to the lesson, in what way is mankind made in the image of God?
 2. How does the essence of God change the way we define what love is?
 3. What are some examples of "common grace" that God shows to all people, whether they are just or unjust?
 4. How does the fact that God is love explain the existence of redemption for human sins?
 5. What is the difference between God’s "universal love" and His "perfect love"?
 6. How does the lesson explain the relationship between God’s choice (election) and human free will?
 7. What is the purpose of the many warnings found throughout the Bible regarding sin?
 8. Why is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ described as the "propitiation" for our sins?
 9. In what way does the love shown by believers serve as a "testimony" to the world?
 10. What does it mean for a Christian to "imitate God" in their daily life?
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Quiz Answer Key

1. Man is made in God's image regarding our immaterial or spiritual being rather than our physical traits. This spiritual part of us creates a deep longing to love and be loved in our human relationships and in our relationship with God.
 2. We do not get to define what love is; instead, God defines love because it is His very essence. He demonstrates this definition through His kindness, His generosity, and His redemptive grace toward humanity.
 3. Common grace is shown through the temporal beauty of the world and nature, such as the sun shining and the rain falling on both the just and the unjust. It is also seen when God gives abilities to people that allow them to succeed in their earthly lives.
 4. If God only followed the moral law, eternal justice would damn every soul because of the consequences of sin. However, because God is love, He seeks and saves the lost by providing a remedy for sin through Jesus Christ.
 5. Universal love is a temporary, general kindness shown to all of mankind during their time on earth. Perfect love is an eternal, forgiving, and lifegiving love that is reserved specifically for God's children who do not reject His Son.
 6. The lesson suggests that while God chooses His people, He does not turn humans into "robots" and requires the exercise of free will. People must have a willing heart to receive Him, as God does not force His presence on those who do not love Him.
 7. The warnings in the Bible are considered evidence of the compassion of God toward sinners. They show that He finds no pleasure in the death of the wicked and truly desires for all people to be saved.
 8. Propitiation refers to the satisfaction or appeasement of God's holy wrath against sin. Jesus Christ acted as the "mercy seat," taking the punishment for our iniquities to satisfy God's just requirements.
 9. Since no one has physically seen God, He puts Himself on display through the lives of believers. When Christians love one another, they reveal God's indwelling presence and make the unseen God visible to a watching world.
 10. To imitate God means to walk in a spirit of selfless sacrifice, just as Jesus Christ gave His life for us. This involves moving away from a life of selfishness and instead focusing on the needs of others within the fellowship.
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Essay Questions

1. Compare and contrast the views of "Calvinists" and "Arminians" regarding salvation as discussed in the lesson. How does the teacher suggest we should view these two perspectives?
2. The lesson mentions several historical atrocities and the "twisted" nature of the world. Explain how the teacher reconciles these "difficulties" with the statement that "God is love."
3. Discuss the significance of the "mercy seat" in the Old Testament and how it serves as a picture of the work Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross.
4. Analyze the concept of "sacrificial love." Why is this type of love considered the standard for Christian living, and how does it differ from the "me-centered" Christianity criticized in the lesson?
5. Explain the phrase "He loved them to the end" from John 13:1. Based on the lesson, why is "perfection" or "the uttermost" a better description of this love than simply the end of a lifespan?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Atonement:** The act of making amends for sin or wrongdoing to restore a relationship with God.
- **Common Grace:** The universal, unconditional love of God shown to all of mankind through nature and providence, regardless of their spiritual state.
- **Essence:** The intrinsic nature or indispensable quality of something; in this context, love is the very nature of God.
- **Fellowship:** The spiritual local community and relationship shared by those who are children of God.
- **Hilasmos [1]:** A Greek concept referring to the appeasement or satisfaction of a deity; used in the Bible to describe Christ's sacrifice.
- **Immaterial:** The part of a human that is not physical, such as the spirit or soul.
- **Monogenes [2]:** A term describing Jesus Christ as the unique, "only begotten," or "one-of-a-kind" Son of God.
- **Propitiation:** The act of placating or satisfying the righteous wrath of God through a substitute sacrifice.
- **Providence:** God's protective care and direction over the world and the lives of people.
- **Redemption:** The action of being saved from sin, error, or evil through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- **Teo Deio [3]:** A term used in the lesson to describe loving someone to "perfection" or to the "uttermost" limit.

- **Unregenerate:** Describing a person who has not been spiritually reborn or has not received Christ.

Greek Vocabulary and Pronunciations

Greek/Transliterated Term	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Monogenes	<i>mo-no-ge-nace</i>	The unique, one-of-a-kind, or only begotten Son [2].
Hilasmos	<i>hi-las-mos</i>	To appease, satisfy, or plate a just requirement [1].
Estos	<i>ess-tose</i>	Used in the lesson to refer to "the end" or "the uttermost" in the context of eternal love [3].
Teo Deio	<i>tay-oh day-oh</i>	A term used to describe loving to perfection or completing a goal [3].

Scripture References (NKJV):

- *Ecclesiastes 3:11*: "He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end."
 - *Ephesians 2:4-5*: "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, He made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)..."
 - *1 John 4:11*: "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."
 - *Isaiah 53:5*: "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."
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Footnotes: [1] Referred to in the source as "halamos" or "hilos" regarding the appeasement of God's wrath. [2] Referred to in the source as "monogenous" regarding the unique nature of the Son. [3] These terms are used in the source transcript to explain the Greek concept of "perfected" or "uttermost" love found in John 13:1.