

Study Guide: 1 John Lesson 76: Exhibiting Perfect Love

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

This study guide explores the teachings from 1 John regarding how believers can show the perfect love of Jesus Christ to the world. It examines the difference between true faith and false professions of faith using the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares. The lesson emphasizes the importance of the Gospel, the role of the Holy Spirit, and the necessity of self-examination in the life of a Christian.

Study Quiz

1. According to the September memory verse from Ecclesiastes 3:11, what has God put into the hearts of people?
 2. What specific items are being collected for the overseas gift boxes in September?
 3. In the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares, what do the "wheat" and the "tears" represent within the church?
 4. Why did Jesus say that the tares should not be pulled up immediately when they are discovered?
 5. According to the lesson, what is the primary mission and purpose of the church in the world?
 6. What are some of the "essentials" that the lesson claims are often missing from a "cheap gospel" or modern invitationalism?
 7. How does the lesson describe the "hard sayings" of Jesus Christ regarding discipleship?
 8. Why is it considered important for a person to "examine themselves" as Paul suggests in 2 Corinthians 13:5?
 9. Since God is invisible, how does the lesson explain that the world is able to "see" Him?
 10. What is the evidence that a person has received the Holy Spirit, according to this teaching?
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Answer Key

1. According to Ecclesiastes 3:11, God has made everything beautiful in its time and has put eternity into the hearts of men. However, no one can find out the work that God does from the beginning to the end.
 2. The church is collecting hairbrushes, combs, and clothing for children of all ages. They also need toothbrushes, plastic cups, and small four-wheel vehicles.
 3. The wheat represents true Christianity and real Christians who have been planted by God. The tares represent false Christians or "fake" believers that the devil has sown among the true believers.
 4. The tares, specifically a weed called darnel, look very similar to wheat during their growth. If you try to pull up the tares too early, you might accidentally rip up the true wheat because they are indistinguishable to the human eye.
 5. The church exists to proclaim the Gospel to the lost and to call sinners to reconciliation with God. Its objective is to share the news of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life through the work of Jesus Christ.
 6. A "cheap gospel" often lacks a call for repentance, brokenness, and submission to God. It also fails to emphasize self-denial, cross-bearing, and the necessity of obedience to Jesus Christ.
 7. The "hard sayings" refer to Jesus Christ's requirement that a person must deny themselves and take up their cross to follow Him. He taught that if a person is not willing to give up everything—including their own life—they are not worthy to be His disciple.
 8. Self-examination is necessary to ensure that a person's profession of faith is genuine and that they are not deluded about their spiritual condition. Because tares and wheat live side by side, individuals must check if they are truly in the faith to avoid the danger of hell.
 9. People see the invisible God when believers love one another with a perfect, mature love. When God abides in His people and His love is perfected in them, it puts the reality of God on display for others to witness.
 10. The evidence of the Holy Spirit is not found in physical impulses or hearing voices, but in a person's belief. If someone believes and confesses that the Father sent the Son as the Savior of the world, that faith is evidence of the Spirit's work.
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Essay Questions

1. Compare and contrast "true Christianity" with what the lesson calls "decisionism" or "invitationalism." Why does the speaker believe the latter can be a tragedy?
2. Explain the significance of the "darnel" weed in the context of the church. How does this agricultural metaphor help us understand the presence of false believers?
3. The lesson states that the church should prioritize its mission over social issues. Discuss the specific elements of the Gospel message that the speaker believes the church must proclaim.
4. Reflect on the concept of "self-denial" as a requirement for salvation. Why is this message often avoided in contemporary evangelism, and what are the risks of ignoring it?
5. How does the assurance of salvation link to the presence of the Holy Spirit and the exhibition of love? Describe the "sequential step-by-step system" mentioned in the text.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Abide:** To remain, continue, or stay united with Jesus Christ in a close relationship.
- **Assurance:** The internal certainty and confidence that a person is truly saved and belongs to God.
- **Darnel:** A type of weed that looks almost exactly like wheat while growing; used to illustrate false believers.
- **Decisionism:** A term used to describe a focus on the outward act of making a "decision" for Christ without necessarily having a true change of heart or repentance.
- **Deluded:** Being misled or tricked into believing something that is not true, such as believing one is saved when they are not.
- **Evangelism:** The act of preaching or spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others.
- **Indistinguishable:** When two things look so much alike that they cannot be easily told apart.
- **Martyr:** A person who is killed because of their religious beliefs, specifically those who died for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- **Nitty-Gritty:** The most basic, important, or practical details of a matter.
- **Reconciliation:** The restoration of a right relationship between a person and God through the forgiveness of sins.

- **Regeneration:** The spiritual rebirth or new creation of a person by the power of God.
- **Ruminate:** To think deeply or meditate on a subject, such as the Gospel.
- **Tares:** Weeds or false plants that grow among good crops; in the Bible, they represent those who pretend to be followers of God but are not.
- **Validity:** The quality of being logically or factually sound; the "truth" or "realness" of a person's faith.