

Bible Study Questions

Above All, Love: The 'How' of Christian Love: God's Love for Us: "God's Love for Us Was Costly"

Focus

For us to truly love others, as children of God must do, will require us to die to ourselves and love self-sacrificially, just as Christ's love for us came at the costly expense of His own life.

Read

[Ephesians 5:1-2](#)

Listen

CCNYC teaching on the sermon series, "*Above All, Love*", which can be found on our website

As you study this passage on your own or with a small group of others, here are some questions for study, reflection, and application.

Questions for Review

(The purpose of these opening questions is to review the passage that was recently preached on in order to make sure that everyone understands the basic structure, events, people, and point of the passage.)

1. Work through some basic review questions for this passage – for example:
 - What's the context? (Where are we in this book of the Bible; the New Testament; and the Bible as a whole?)
 - Who are the people and/or situations that this passage is addressing?
 - What clues are there about the author and his circumstances?
 - Is there a conflict or high point in this passage? (What is the structure of this passage that builds to that point?)
 - What was the main point or theme of this passage that was identified in Sunday's sermon?
 - What surprises are there in this passage?
2. What questions do you still have about this passage that you'd like to discuss?

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Questions for Reflection and Application

(The purpose of these reflection questions is to help each other not just understand what the passage is saying, but to think more deeply about what it means so that we can then accurately apply it to our lives today.)

1. In what ways are the two commands in these two verses related to each other? How does one inform the other?
2. How does knowing that because of Christ you are a beloved child of God equip you to *be imitators of God*?
3. Paul's point in verse 2 is that Christ has loved us by giving Himself up for us. What does that teach you about true love?
4. In what ways does the fact that Christ's death for us was specifically *a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God* underscore the costliness and depth of His love for us?
5. How does knowing that Christ has so loved you that He gave Himself up for you equip you to *walk in love*? (Remember to think in terms of Christ being both the model for how to love, as well as the means by which we're able to love.)
6. What are some specific ways you can love others in this costly, self-sacrificial manner? (Try to get very specific about your relationships at home, in the church, at work, in your neighborhood, etc.)
7. What are some of the heart attitudes you have that are currently making it difficult for you to love others in this way? What will you do to turn from those attitudes?
8. Paul's statement here that 'Christ has loved us' is similar to the very personal statement he makes in Galatians 2:20 about how Christ *loved me and gave himself for me*. Do you understand Jesus' love for you to be that personal? What difference does it make to your life?

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Ongoing questions to ask of any passage:

1. How does the gospel inform your understanding and application of this passage?
2. Has studying this passage in any way challenged your understanding about who God is and what He's like? If so, how so?
3. In light of studying this passage, is there any behavior or attitude that you need to personally address in your life? If so, how specifically will you address it?
4. How does this passage help you to love, trust, and worship Jesus more fully?