

**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**

**GROWING IN CHRISTIAN LOVE**

International Sunday School Lesson for September 13, 1954.

Memory Selection: "Above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." — Colossians 3:14.

Lesson Text: Matthew 5:43-48; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; I John 4:7-21.

Our lesson for this week is somewhat of a continuation or outgrowth of the lesson for last week. But surely the subject of Christian love needs to be emphasized today to such an extent that a series of lessons on the subject would not be superfluous.

There are several different types or kinds of sentiment, which are translated "love" in English. The Greek language, in which the New Testament is written, has four different words for "love." There is the word "eros" from which we get our English word "erotic," which is not used in the New Testament at all. This "eros" has to do with selfish, self-seeking, love, with life instincts—the kind of love a young man feels for the young woman he wants to marry.

Then, there is the Greek word "storge," which relates to family love or affection. It is a little like the word "philia," from which we get such words as "Philadelphia," which, as you know, means "brotherly love." This Greek word "philia" is used twenty-five times in the New Testament and denotes wishing well, being kindly disposed toward, or admiring.

The word for "love," which is used over and over in the New Testament—more than one hundred and fifty times, is "agape." This love must be different from romantic love or friendship, or even family love. It includes such profound feeling as God's love for the world, our love for God, our love for our neighbors, our love for our enemies, and even our love for ourselves.

It is this "agape" form of love that is used by Jesus when he said, "Love your enemies." This is a terribly hard saying for most of us to accept, for, instead of loving only those whose lives are closely intertwined with ours, the Christian is commanded to love even those who do not love him and actually seek to do him harm.

Jesus challenges us to treat "all men" well. Since God's concern for the welfare of men is independent of man's attitude toward Him, even so must the Christian seek to do good to all men, of all races, creeds or positions. This is a difficult thing to do and can be accomplished only if we cultivate love in our hearts.

The people to whom Jesus was talking were so surprised at his strong statements that they probably weren't too shocked to hear him say that the Christian standard is no less than perfection. Knowing that God, our Heavenly Father, is perfect, the Christian should constantly and earnestly strive to imitate his Creator in perfectness.

After all, whether we realize it or not, there can be no Christianity without love—for the basic principle of the Christian religion is love. Giovanni Papini says, "Jesus had just one aim: to transform men from beasts to saints by the means of love." His whole life was a drama of unsolicited love and his death on the cross was a means of providing his sacrificial love for the whole, wide world.

Paul gives a very lucid, impressive definition of love, in I Cor. 13:4-8, when he says: "Love is very patient, very kind. Love knows no jealousy; love makes no parade, gives itself no airs, is never rude, never selfish, never irritated, never resentful; love is never glad when others go wrong, love is gladdened by goodness, always slow to expose, always eager to believe the best, always hopeful, always patient. Love never disappears." (Moffatt's translation).

John, the disciple, who is often known as the Apostle of love because he wrote so much and so impressively on this subject, was the one who recorded the great John 3:16, which all Christians know and love: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life." John also wrote other New Testament books, in all of which he emphasizes love. He makes love the outstanding or primary trait of God. He declared that love of our fellow man is the best proof that we are Christians, and that this love finds its expression in sharing and in obedience.

Since love is the antithesis of hate, those who so far their hearts with love will have no room for hate. Since love is unselfish, thoughts of revenge and punishment cannot flourish. Forgiveness will be easier to the person whose heart is filled with love. We should be remembered that Christians are judged by others by the kind of life and character he produces and it is through our loving actions that the world is convinced that we are the children of our Heavenly Father.

John declares that there is no "fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear." Only he will be at peace whose mind is stayed on God.

**WHY?  
WHY?  
WHY?**

It is such a little word, yet she uses it so often . . . particularly when she is alone, and thinking to herself. For it seems, then, as if there are so many questions and so few answers.

She tells herself that she isn't unhappy. She is young and attractive, has a family and friends, and enough material things to satisfy her wants. Yet there is something lacking, something that makes her restless when she should be at peace, enjoying the bounty of some of the best years of her life. Why, she asks herself. Why?

The answer is a simple one. There is something lacking in her life . . . there is a void. She hasn't found the basic faith that can answer her questions. She needs the spiritual background that the Church alone can give her. And until she finds this—she will still be asking, "Why?"

Do you ask yourself "Why?" too?

**THE CHURCH FOR ALL . . . ALL FOR THE CHURCH**

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Day	Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday . . .	Matthew	9	9-13
Monday . . .	Matthew	26	6-12
Tuesday . . .	Mark	8	11-18
Wednesday . . .	Luke	6	29-40
Thursday . . .	John	8	42-51
Friday . . .	John	12	1-8
Saturday . . .	Romans	14	1-12

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**Perquimans Church Services**

**HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
James O. Mattox, Pastor  
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.  
Evening Worship, 8 o'clock.  
Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 8 P. M.

**BETHLEHEM CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Joe Brickhouse, Pastor  
First Sunday  
11 A. M. and 8 P. M.

**BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Phil H. Quidley, Pastor  
Church services second Sunday at 11 A. M., fourth Sunday at 8 P. M.  
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.

**PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES**  
H. M. Jamieson, Pastor  
First Sunday:  
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Oak Grove Church, 7:00 P. M.  
Second Sunday  
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Cedar Grove Church, 10 A. M.  
Woodland Church, 7:00 P. M.  
Third Sunday  
Oak Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.  
New Hope Church, 7:00 P. M.  
Fourth Sunday  
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Woodland Church, 10 A. M.  
Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.  
Fifth Sunday  
Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.

**ANDERSON'S METHODIST CHURCH**  
C. H. Beale, Pastor  
Church School, 10:00 A. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M., second and fourth Sundays.

**WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Hugh Ross Williams, Pastor  
Church Services on second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.  
First and Third Sundays at 7.45 P. M.  
Sunday School 9:45 A. M.

**UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH**  
James Rahenkamp, Pastor  
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.  
Church Services 11 A. M., - 7:30 P. M.  
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.  
Prayer Service, Wednesday 7:30 P. M.

**BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. J. D. Stoner, Pastor  
Sunday School 10 A. M.  
Morning Worship 11 A. M.  
Evening service 8 P. M.

**PINEY WOODS FRIENDS CHURCH**  
D. Virgil Pike, Pastor  
Church School 10 A. M.  
Morning Worship 11 A. M.  
Young People's Meeting 7 P. M.

**WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Caleb Goodwin, Jr., Pastor  
Sunday School, 10:30 A. M., every Sunday except third Sunday.  
Church services every third Sunday at 8 P. M.

**HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH**  
A. L. Chaplin, Pastor  
Church School, 9:45 A. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.  
Youth Fellowship, 6:45 P. M.  
Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M.  
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.

**BAGLEY SWAMP PILGRIM**  
Coy S. Saunders, Pastor  
Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.  
Young People's Meeting, 6:30 P. M.  
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.  
Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.

**HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
Rev. Charles F. Wulf, Rector.  
9:45 A. M., Church School, every Sunday.  
9:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 1st Sunday.  
8:30 A. M., Holy Communion, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.  
11:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 3rd Sunday.  
11:00 A. M., Morning Prayer, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.  
10:00 A. M., Holy Communion, Fridays and Saints' Days.

**BERRA CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Walker Perry, Pastor  
2nd and 4th Sunday at 10:30 A. M.  
Morning worship on first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.  
Evening worship first and third Sundays at 7:30 P. M.

**CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. Vivian Evans, Pastor  
Sunday School every first and third Sunday at 10:30 A. M. Preaching service at 11:15 A. M.  
Sunday School every second and fourth Sunday at 11:00 A. M.

Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Do Go