

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY



ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

John Lennon, of Beatles fame, wrote a song titled *All You Need Is Love*. Please don't get hung up on using a Beatles song to start a Bible Study. It's just a point of connection.

Read 1 John 4:7-8 (ESV)

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

- Take a few minutes and discuss the meaning every time the word love is used.
 - Note: Don't forget the very first word, beloved.

Read Luke 10:25-37 (NLT)

"One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus replied, "*What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?*" The man answered, "'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "*Right!*" Jesus told him. "*Do this and you will live!*" The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?""

Let's stop here for a minute.

- Who was it that asked the question? (This is kind of a trick question. The answer I'm looking for is religious.)
- What is the question he asked?
- Traditionally, what are we taught that you must do to inherit eternal life?
 - What does Jesus say?
- If you had to sum up these scriptures in one word, what would it be?

Parable of the Good Samaritan

"Jesus replied with a story: "*A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side. Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.'*"

- Of the three, who would you think should help?
- Did you notice anything the two people who passed him by had in common?

"*Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?*" Jesus asked. The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy." Then Jesus said, "*Yes, now go and do the same.*"

- Who was it who showed love?
- What is the command of Jesus in this reading?
- What does that say to us as Christians?

Read some, or all, of the following scriptures and briefly discuss them. (All are NLT unless otherwise noted. Please feel free to use whatever translation you prefer.)

1 Peter 2:21

“For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered[a] for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.”

Philippians 2:5

“You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.”

John 13:13

“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right, because that’s what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet. I have given you an example to follow.”

John 13:34-35

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NKJ)

“Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.”

1 John 2:6

“He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”

Ephesians 4:32

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

Colossians 3:12-14 (NKJV)

“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”

SO, IF THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS RIGHT AND GOD IS LOVE, THEN JOHN LENNON WAS RIGHT,
ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE.