



## **ANSWERS: Unit 4: Disciple of Christ**

*Live life as a disciple of Christ and intentionally make disciples for the glory of God.*

### **Lesson 17 Growing in Love**

#### **Day One**

#### ***Love is More Than a Feeling***

**Read 1 John 5:3–5 and answer questions 1–3:**

*In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. 1 John 5:3–5*

**1. How is our love for God expressed (v. 3)?**

**By keeping His commands.**

**2. Why are God's commands described as "not burdensome" (vv. 3–4)?**

**Because we love Him; and everyone born of God is empowered to obey and overcome the world.**

**3. How does faith in Jesus lead to victory over the world (vv. 4–5)?**

**Faith in Jesus connects us to His power, which overcomes the world.**

**Read Matthew 12:43–45 and answer questions 4–8:**

*"When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. <sup>44</sup> Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. <sup>45</sup> Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation." Matthew 12:43–45*

**4. According to Jesus, what happens when an evil spirit leaves a person but later returns and finds the "house" (life) unoccupied (v. 45)?**

**It brings seven more wicked spirits, and the person's final condition becomes worse than before.**

5. What do you think Jesus means when He describes the house (person) as unoccupied (v. 44)?

The person is empty—cleansed outwardly but not filled with God’s presence or Spirit. God is not there—neither the Father, Son, nor Holy Spirit. Without God’s indwelling, there is no protection against evil. Lacking divine resistance, the person is vulnerable, and evil spirits can return and take control, using that unguarded soul for their wicked purposes.

6. How does this parable warn against relying on outward behavior change without true inward transformation through faith in Christ?

It shows that without genuine spiritual renewal, a person remains vulnerable to worse spiritual bondage.

7. What does this passage teach us about the importance of being filled with the Holy Spirit, rather than simply removing sinful habits or influences from our lives?

True freedom comes not just from removing sin, but from being filled and occupied by the Holy Spirit.

8. In what ways does Jesus’ warning challenge you personally—and how might it shape the way you disciple others?

Personal answer, but it reminds us to seek lasting transformation through Christ and to encourage disciples to be filled with His Spirit, not just to clean up outward behavior.

Here’s another possible answer: Jesus’ warning reminds me that it is not enough to clean up the outside of my life or break bad habits. If I am not filled with His Spirit and growing in relationship with Him, I am spiritually vulnerable. It challenges me to stay surrendered to Christ daily and to guard against spiritual emptiness.

In discipling others, this truth helps me see the importance of leading people not just toward behavior change but toward true transformation in Christ. I want to help others understand that Jesus does not just want to reform our lives—He wants to fill and lead them through His Spirit. Outward change must be the result of inward surrender.

**Read Romans 5:5 and answer questions 9–13:**

*And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Romans 5:5*

9. Who pours God’s love into the hearts of believers?

God

**10.** By what means is God's love poured into our hearts?

Through the Holy Spirit.

**11.** Do you believe God has poured out His love into your heart by the Holy Spirit? Yes No  
(Underline One) Explain your answer:

Personal answer, but if yes, because Scripture promises it, and I see evidence of His love and transformation in my life.

**12.** What gives *you* confidence that you can love God and love your neighbor?

Personal answer, but the Holy Spirit empowers a believer, and God's love within them enables it.

**13.** In what ways do faith and love work together in the life of a believer?

By faith we receive God's love and by faith we are able to love God and others. Romans 5:5 is a faith statement because we must place our confidence in what God has told us in His Word. God is love and His love is in our hearts.

Faith connects us to God, and love is the fruit of that relationship—expressing faith through action.

### **Action Step**

**14.** Memorize Romans 5:5 and recite to your discipleship team.

**15.** Read and meditate on the following ways to grow in love through the Holy Spirit. Which one are you most drawn to? Which is most challenging? How is the Spirit leading you to love?

### **Personal Answer**

### **Growing in Love Through the Holy Spirit**

**Remain in Christ (John 15:4–5):** Just as branches must stay connected to the vine to bear fruit, we must remain in close fellowship with Jesus. Abiding in Him allows His love to continually flow through us, nourishing and shaping our character.

**Walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5:16, 22–23):** Love is the first fruit of the Spirit. As we yield to the Spirit's leading in daily decisions, attitudes, and actions, He cultivates and matures love in us, not just in emotion, but in action.

**Obey God's Word (John 14:21):** Obedience to God deepens our love. As we follow His commands, especially to love others as He has loved us, our understanding and practice of true love become more authentic and sacrificial.

**Receive God's Love Daily (1 John 4:19):** We love because He first loved us. Spending time in prayer, worship, and Scripture helps us continually receive and be reminded of God's unchanging love, which fuels our ability to love others—even when it's difficult.

**Practice Love in Action (1 Corinthians 13):** Love grows stronger through practice. Serving others, showing patience, forgiveness, and kindness—even when it costs us—builds spiritual muscle and reflects Christ's love to the world.

**Pursue Holiness (1 Peter 1:22):** As we purify our hearts by obeying the truth, our love for others grows deeper and more sincere. A holy life is fertile ground for genuine love.

—End Day One—

**Day Two**

***Love Other Ethnic Groups***

**16.** Do you think God is willing to forgive the perpetrators of genocide? Yes | No (Underline One) Explain your answer:

Personal answer, but yes, God's forgiveness is available to all who truly repent, no matter the severity of their sin. Through faith in Jesus Christ, even the worst offenders can be forgiven (see 1 John 1:9; Isaiah 1:18). God's mercy is greater than any human sin.

**17.** Read Jonah 3:10. Did God forgive the Ninevites after they repented? Yes | No (Underline One)

*When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened. Jonah 3:10*

**18.** Read Jonah 4:1–2. How does Jonah describe God?

*But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup> He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Jonah 4:1–2 (See Exodus 34:6–7)*

Jonah describes God as gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in love, and a God who relents from sending calamity.

**19.** Read John 3:16. Is God still gracious, compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity? Yes | No (Underline One)

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*

**20.** Read Luke 23:34. What did Jesus say as He was nailed to wooden beams?

*Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. Luke 23:34*

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

**21.** Why do you think the church remains divided along ethnic or cultural lines?

Personal answer, but because of human pride, historical injustices, cultural preferences, and a lack of intentional effort to pursue unity in Christ above all other identities.

**Note from the lesson:** There may be many answers to this question, but the important point is to recognize that divisions exist and persist within the church. If the body of Christ remains

separated, how can we expect the world around us to be any different? True fellowship and unity start with us—His disciples. We are called to work, play, and worship together in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

**Read Romans 12:16–17 and answer questions 22–24:**

*Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.* Romans 12:16–17 (Harmony in this context is being of the same mind toward one another.)

**22.** How are we to live with one another (v. 16)?

**We are to live in harmony, being of the same mind toward one another.**

**23.** What should our state of mind be and who should we be willing to associate with (v. 16)?

**We should be humble and not proud, and be willing to associate with people of low position.**

**24.** Do we repay evil for evil (v. 17)? Yes | No (Underline One)

**Read Luke 6:27 and answer questions 25–26:**

*“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.* Luke 6:27–28

**25.** Suppose someone truly despises you because of your ethnicity and considers you an enemy. How are you to treat that person?

**Personal answer, but we are to love them, do good to them, bless them, and pray for them—just as Jesus commands.**

**26.** How did our model, Jesus Christ, treat His enemies (See Romans 5:7–10)?

**Jesus died for us while we were still sinners and enemies of God, showing unconditional love and offering reconciliation.**

**Bible Reference in question 26:**

*Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup> For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!* Romans 5:7–10

**Action Steps**

**27.** Ask the Holy Spirit to help you honestly review your life. Have you ever avoided, judged, or hurt someone because they were from a different ethnic group or cultural background?

**Personal Answer**

**28.** Confess any sins the Lord reveals from question 27, and ask Jesus to help you love and value people of all ethnicities and backgrounds the way He does.

**Personal Confession**

—End Day Two—

**Day Three**

***Defining Love***

**Read Colossians 3:12–14 and answer questions 29–31:**

*Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love [agape], which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

Colossians 3:12–14

**29.** As a disciple of Christ—God’s chosen, holy, and dearly loved—how should you treat all people, even those from different ethnic, religious, or political backgrounds (v. 12)?

*With compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.*

**30.** How do you respond to those who display prejudice or discrimination toward you (v. 13)?

*By bearing with them and forgiving them, just as the Lord forgave us.*

**31.** What quality “binds them [virtues] all together in perfect unity” (v. 14)?

*Love (agape).*

**32.** Read 2 Corinthians 5:18–19. What can *you* do to help bridge ethnic and cultural divisions and replace them with harmony?

*Personal answer, but one can actively pursue reconciliation by sharing God’s message of grace and building relationships across ethnic and cultural lines. We help restore broken relationships through Christ’s love and example—by praying, reaching out to people of different ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, and sincerely seeking to understand their experiences, including any pain caused by prejudice.*

*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:18–19 (Reconciliation is the restoration of a broken relationship.)*

**Read 1 John 4:9–10 and answer questions 33–35:**

*This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:9–10*

**33.** How does God show His love among us (v. 9)?

By sending His one and only Son into the world so we might live through Him.

**34.** How do *you* allow Jesus to live and love through you?

Personal answer, but by surrendering daily to Him, obeying His Word, and showing selfless love to others.

**35.** What is love (v. 10)?

Love is that God loved us first and sent His Son as a sacrifice for our sins.

**36.** Read Romans 5:8. How does God show His love for you?

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*  
Romans 5:8

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**Read Psalm 52:8–9 and answer questions 37–39:**

*But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever. <sup>9</sup> For what you have done I will always praise you in the presence of your faithful people. And I will hope in your name, for your name is good.* Psalm 52:8–9

**37.** What does David trust in (v. 8)?

He trusts in God's unfailing love for ever and ever.

**38.** What does David hope in (v. 9b)?

He hopes in God's name, for His name is good.

**39.** Will you place your trust in God's unfailing love and hope in His name? Yes No (Underline One) Explain your answer:

Personal Answer

### **Action Step**

**40.** Sincerely pray the following prayer. I have prayed. Yes | No (Underline One)

### **Personal Answer**

Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit,  
You are good. No matter what is happening in my life, I declare You are righteous, holy,  
and faithful. You are worthy of unwavering trust and confidence.

I pray to always trust in Your unfailing love and place my hope in You. No matter what  
circumstance or situation arises, I ask to always praise and declare Your goodness. Amen.

### **Read 1 John 4:11–13 and answer questions 41–43:**

*Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*

*<sup>13</sup> This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit.*

1 John 4:11–13

**41.** Why should we love one another (v. 11)?

**Because God loved us, we are also called to love one another.**

**42.** How is God's love made complete in us (v. 12)?

**When we love one another, God lives in us and His love reaches full expression in us.**

**43.** How do we know God lives in us (v. 13)?

**We know God lives in us because He has given us His Spirit, who confirms or testifies when He lives within us.**

—End Day Three—

**Day Four**  
***Loving Others***

**Read 1 John 3:16 and answer questions 44–45:**

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 1 John 3:16*

**44.** How do we know what love is?

Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.

**45.** Have you ever been able to love someone with Jesus' kind of sacrificial love? Yes | No (Underline One) If yes, please share the story:

**Personal Answer**

**46.** Read 1 John 3:17–18. What are some ways, other than physical death, you can lay down your life?

By giving your time, sharing resources with those in need, offering emotional support, serving others sacrificially, and putting others' needs ahead of your own through daily acts of love.

*If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:17–18*

**Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–8a and answer questions 47–51:**

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails. 1 Corinthians 13:1–8a*

**47.** In what ways does the story of the African believer reflect the love described here?

Personal answer, but the African believer showed patient, kind, and selfless love by putting others' needs above his own. He was not self-seeking or focused on his poverty but responded with compassion and perseverance. His love protected, hoped, and acted in truth—reflecting the kind of love that never fails.

**48.** Why do you not delight in evil but rejoice with the truth (v. 6)?

Personal answer, but should include the fact that Jesus has washed our sins away and made it possible to *not* delight in evil but rejoice in the truth. Jesus is truth and He is love.

**49.** Which characteristic of love do you find most challenging to live out—and why?

**Personal Answer**

**Action Steps**

**50.** Set aside time each day this week to pray through 1 Corinthians 13:1–8a, asking God to shape your heart and actions according to His definition of love. Also, pray through it together at your next discipleship meeting. I have prayed. Yes | No (Underline One)

**Personal Answer**

**51.** Prayerfully consider how you can put love into action this week by doing one small, sacrificial act for someone in need. Then, take time to share your experience.

**Personal Answer**

**Read Matthew 22:37–40 and answer questions 52–57:**

*“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’<sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment.<sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’<sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”* Matthew 22:36–40 (Note: “Neighbor” refers to anyone in need, not just those close to us. “The Law and the Prophets” was a common way of referring to the entire Old Testament, which was the complete Scripture during Jesus’ time.)

**52.** According to the first and greatest commandment, how are you to love God?

**With all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.**

**53.** What does it mean to love God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind?

**It means loving God with your whole being—emotionally, spiritually, and intellectually—making Him your highest priority. Our whole lives or beings are passionately dedicated to serving God and doing His will.**

**54.** How can *you* increase your love for God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

**Personal answer, but y spending time in prayer, seeking His will, studying His Word, obeying His commands, and worshiping Him daily. Fervently pray and ask God for the grace to love Him more.**

**55.** According to the second great commandment, how do you love others?

You love others as you love yourself—caring for their needs, showing kindness, and treating them with respect and compassion.

**56.** How can *you* increase your love for other people?

Personal answer, but asking God to give you His heart for others, serving them sacrificially, and practicing empathy and forgiveness. Fervently pray and ask God for the grace to love others more and give opportunities to increase and develop this love for others.

**57.** Memorize Matthew 22:36–40.

**Personal Memorization**

—End Day Four—

**Day Five**

***Love is Elementary***

**Read Ephesians 3:16–21 and answer questions 58–62:**

*I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. <sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:16–21*

**58.** What does Paul pray will happen in the “inner being” of the believer, and how is that connected to Christ dwelling in our hearts (vv. 16–17)?

Paul prays that believers will be strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit, so that Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith—transforming them from within.

**59.** What does it mean to be “rooted and established in love”? How does that foundation affect your relationship with God and others? (vv. 17–18)?

It means having love as the firm foundation of your life. This strengthens your relationship with God and enables you to love others consistently and deeply.

**60.** Paul prays that we would grasp the dimensions of Christ's love—how wide, long, high, and deep it is. What do these descriptions tell you about the nature of Christ's love (vv. 18–19)?

Christ's love is immeasurable, all-encompassing, and limitless. It reaches every person, in every situation, at every depth of need.

**61.** When believers know and take hold of the magnitude of Christ's love, what happens (v. 19)?

They are filled with all the fullness of God—spiritually complete, mature, and deeply connected to Him.

**62.** Why do Christ's disciples have hope of being filled with the fullness of God (v. 20)?

Because God's power is at work within them, and He can do far more than they could ever ask or imagine.

**63.** How does the life of William Wilberforce inspire you to persevere and not give up, even when facing strong opposition?

Personal answer, but Wilberforce's life shows that love and faith in Christ can fuel perseverance. Despite years of failure and intense opposition, he remained steadfast in his mission, trusting God and never giving up. His example encourages me to keep doing what is right, even when results are delayed or resistance is strong.

**64.** Can others recognize that you are a follower of Christ by the way you show love (John 13:34–35)? Yes | No (Underline One) Explain your answer:

Personal Answer

Bible Reference in question 64:

*"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*  
John 13:34–35

**65.** Read Matthew 5:44–46? Why are we considered sons of our heavenly Father when we love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us?

*But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? Matthew 5:44–46*

Because by loving our enemies and praying for them, we reflect God's character—His mercy, grace, and impartial love—which shows we belong to Him and live like His true children.

**Read Ephesians 3:16–21 and answer questions 66–68:**

*Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. Romans 13:8–10*

**66.** What does it mean to have a continuing debt to love one another (v. 8)?

It means we are always obligated to love others—love is a debt we never fully repay.

**67.** How are the commandments summed up (v. 9)?

They are summed up in the command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

**68.** What is the fulfillment of the law (v. 10)?

Love is the fulfillment of the law because it does no harm to others and upholds all that the law requires.

—End of Answers Day Five, Lesson 17 and Unit 4: Disciple of Christ—

**Next—Lesson 1: Christ Makes God Known, Unit 5: Gospel of John**

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