

God Is Love

1John 4:8; 1Cor. 13:4-7 To become godly I must also have love like Him.

Grade yourself 1-10 (Ten being perfect!)

Name _____	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
suffers long and					
is kind;					
does not envy;					
not parade itself,					
is not puffed up;					
⁵ does not ...					
..behave rudely,					
...seek its own,					
is not provoked,					
thinks no evil;					
⁶ does not					
rejoice in iniquity,					
rejoices in the truth;					
bears all things,					
believes all things,					
hopes all things,					
endures all things.					

1. "I Love" Homework. From the above challenge and test what has been the biggest challenge?
2. What has been the greatest fruit to come from your efforts to become like God in His example of loving you?

God Is Love

1Cor. 13:4-8

#26. agape, ag-ah'-pay

suffers long and	3114 – patiently endure, forbearing.
is kind;	5543 – act benevolently
does not envy;	2206 – to aspire eagerly after
not parade itself,	4068 – to vaunt or brag on self.
is not puffed up;	5448 – to inflate with pride
⁵ does notbehave rudely,	807 – behave self in an uncomely (unseemly) manner
...seek its own,	1438 – not seeking (selfish, own, my) way
is not provoked,	3947 – not easily to exasperate or to easily provoke, stir up.
thinks no evil;	3049 – to take an inventory, i.e. estimate, keep record of wrongs
⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity,	93 – No rejoicing or cheer in iniquity, unjust, unrighteousness, wrong
rejoices in the truth;	4796 – to sympathize in gladness, congratulate:--rejoice when truth victorious
bears all things,	4722 – to cover, endure patiently, carry burden, suffer
believes all things,	4100 – trust, expects the best choice about one's spiritual well being
hopes all things,	1679 – To expect and entrust the best of
endures all things.	5278 – have fortitude, persevere patiently, suffer
greatest	3187 – Greatest longest lasting

Ro 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

God demonstrates LOVE

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Suffers long Ge 6:6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

Ps 78:40 How often they provoked Him in the wilderness, And grieved Him in the desert!

Isa 65:3 A people who provoke Me to anger continually to My face; Who sacrifice in gardens, And burn incense on altars of brick;

Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you. (NKJV)

Kind

Ne 9:17 They refused to obey, And they were not mindful of Your wonders That You did among them. But they hardened their necks, And in their rebellion They appointed a leader To return to their bondage. But You are God, Ready to pardon, Gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, Abundant in kindness, And did not forsake them.

Ps 117:2 For His merciful kindness is great toward us, And the truth of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

Ps 36:7 How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. Ps 36:6 Your righteousness is like the great mountains; Your judgments are a great deep; O LORD, You preserve man and beast.

Isa 63:7 I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD And the praises of the LORD, According to all that the LORD has bestowed on us, And the great goodness toward the house of Israel, Which He has bestowed on them according to His mercies, According to the multitude of His lovingkindnesses. (NKJV)

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Envy – What would God be in want of other than for His creation to love Him back as much as He loves them?

Pr 8:17 I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me.

Jer 29:13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Ps 63:1 O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water.

Mt 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Lu 19:10 "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." (NKJV)

Vaunt, boast, brag on self

Jer 9:23 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches;

Pr 27:2 Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.

Jas 4:16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

Ga 6:14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Mankind has the problem of self glorying and bragging self importance.

2Ti 3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

Puffed up with pride

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Joh 10:30 "I and My Father are one."

Php 2:7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Lu 9:58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

Mt 20:28 "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Zec 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

Isa 50:6 I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.

Isa 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

Ro 15:3 For even Christ did not please Himself;

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1Pe 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

Eph 4:15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ--

Lu 6:31 "And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.

Col 3:12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

Mt 5:44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

Self seeking

Le 19:17 'You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.

18 'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Php 2:4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Mr 10:45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Joh 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Not Easily Provoked

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Motive important! SelfLESS or selfish?

Eph 4:26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

Jas 1:19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

Ps 86:15 But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but ***is longsuffering toward us***, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (NKJV)

Thinks NO evil, keeping no vendettas list of wrongs to get even

Col 3:14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

Lu 23:34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.

Mt 18:21 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

Ex 34:5 Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,

7 "keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin,...

God is JUST! He seeks all to repent but will not overlook those who practice sin. He also knows the impact of those guilty of practicing sin and influence upon their families for generations...

... by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

8 So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.

9 Then he said, "If now I have found grace in Your sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray, go among us, even though we are a stiff-necked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your inheritance." (NKJV)

Not rejoice in iniquity - No rejoicing or cheer in iniquity, unjust,

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unrighteousness, wrong

Ps 5:4 For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell with You.

Eze 18:30 "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways," says the Lord GOD. "Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin.

31 "Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel?

32 "For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord GOD. "Therefore turn and live!" (NKJV)

Rejoices in truth to sympathize in gladness, congratulate:--
rejoice when truth victorious

Zep 3:17 The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

Lu 15:10 "Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Ps 147:11 The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, In those who hope in His mercy.

Pr 12:22 Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, But

those who deal truthfully are His delight.

Ps 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And

He delights in his way. (NKJV)

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Bears all things - to cover, endure patiently, carry burden, suffer

Ps 55:22 Cast your burden on the LORD, And He shall sustain you;...

1Pe 5:7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

Isa 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For YAH, the LORD, **is my strength** and song; He also has become my salvation.'"

Php 4:13 I can do all things **through Christ who strengthens** me.

Ps 24:1 The earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. 2 For He has founded it upon the seas, And established it upon the waters.

Ps 95:3 For the LORD is the great God, And the great King above all gods. 4 In His hand are

- the deep places of the earth;
- The heights of the hills are His also. 5
- The sea is His, for He made it; And
- His hands formed the dry land.

6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

Col 1:17 And He is before all things, **and in Him all things consist.**

Heb 1:3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and **upholding all things by the word of His power**, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (NKJV)

Believes all things - trust, expects best choice about one's spiritual well being. Even with man rejecting God, causing great sorrow, disappointments He still chooses to believe some will love Him back with their whole heart.

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- World in Noah's day – 8 souls
- Balaam XXX
- Rich young ruler – Matt 19:16-28
- Abram offering His Isaac YES
- Israelites taking promised land XXXXX
- Etc.

Hopes All Things - To expect and entrust the best of

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Ro 15:13 Now may **the God of hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ps 130:7 O Israel, **hope in the LORD**; For with the LORD there is mercy, And with Him is abundant redemption.

Ps 147:11 The **LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, In those who hope** in His mercy.

Jer 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Ro 12:12 **rejoicing in hope**, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;

Eph 1:18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that **you may know what is the hope of His calling**, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

Tit 2:13 **looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,**

Endures all thing - have fortitude, persevere patiently

endures all things.

greatest

God's whole design creation of the universe centers around love.

- He Loves the angels, gave heaven, many rejected it
- He loves man, yet **many reject Him and His love.**
- He has given enumerable amazing living creatures to reveal his love.
- He designed multitudes of beauties that make us marvel.
- These scream ***to the open heart***

**That an all knowing, all powerful ever present CREATOR
LOVES US!**

Man spends billions of \$\$ to influence us to believe the lie that there is NO higher power who designed nor maintains it all.

But it takes a real FOOL to shut their eyes to all the evidences that screams an awesome being MUST have created it and maintains it.

The evidence is overwhelmingly a picture of real LOVE.

In spite of all those dark efforts God continues to show His love and mercy, "in hope" that we all will repent and come to a knowledge of the truth.

Will you respond to His Love?

Psalm repeats it best in 136

His steadfast LOVE ENDURES FOREVER!

1Co 13:13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three;

but the greatest of these is love. (NKJV)