

# ***Steps To Christ***

## **Study Guides**

### **Chapter 1**

### **God's Love for Man**

## Lesson Preparation

1. Memorize Genesis 1:27.

“So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (NKJV)

2. Read *Steps to Christ*, Chapter 1.
3. Put in your own words, or write the passage in Chapter 1, that best describes the theme of the chapter.



4. List several key points as you read the chapter.



## Scriptures (NKJV)

### 1. How did God show His love for all people?

John 3:16. “For God so loved the world that He [redacted] His only begotten [redacted], that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

### 2. How did God bestow His love upon us?

1 John 3:1. “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called [redacted]! . . . .”

### 3. How is God described?

1 John 4:7, 8. “<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>He who does not love does not know God, for [redacted].”

### 4. How has God described Himself?

Exodus 34:6, 7. “<sup>6</sup> And the LORD before him and proclaimed, ‘The LORD, the LORD, [redacted] and [redacted], [redacted], and abounding in [redacted] and [redacted],<sup>7</sup> keeping [redacted] for thousands, [redacted] iniquity and transgression and sin, . . . .’”

### 5. How was God’s love manifested?

1 John 4:9. “In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has [redacted] His only begotten into the [redacted], that we might live through Him.”

**6. How is love described?**

1 Corinthians 13:4-8. “<sup>4</sup> Love [redacted] long *and* is [redacted]; love does not [redacted]; love does not [redacted] itself, is not [redacted] up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave [redacted], does not [redacted], is not [redacted], thinks no [redacted]; <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity, but [redacted] in the [redacted]; <sup>7</sup> [redacted] all things, [redacted] all things, [redacted] all things, [redacted] all things. <sup>8</sup> Love [redacted].”

**7. What was our condition when God loved us?**

Romans 5:8. “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still [redacted], Christ died for us.”

**8. How do we develop God’s type of love?**

1 John 2:5. “But whoever [redacted], truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.”

**9. How is God’s love perfected in us?**

1 John 4:12. “No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, [redacted], and His love has been perfected in us.”

**10. What cannot exist where perfect love is?**

1 John 4:18. “There is no [redacted] in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

**11. Why do we love God?**

1 John 4:19. “We love Him because [redacted].”

**12. What type of love does God have?**

Jeremiah 31:3. “The LORD has appeared of old to me, *saying*: ‘Yes, I have loved you with an [redacted]; Therefore with [redacted] I have drawn you.’”

**13. Who loves like Jesus?**

John 15:9. “As the [redacted] loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.”

**14. What do we comprehend when Christ dwells in our hearts?**

Ephesians 3:17-19. “<sup>17</sup> that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup>may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—<sup>19</sup> to know the [redacted] which [redacted]; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

**15. What cannot the true Christian be separated from?**

Romans 8:38, 39. “<sup>38</sup>For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, <sup>39</sup>nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the [redacted] which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

## Study Questions

1. What two things testify of God's love? (Paragraph 1).

2. Why did God allow trials and difficulties? (2).

3. What in nature reveals God's love? (1-3).

4. What reveals the character of God? (4).

5. How do earthly relationships represent God's love? (5).

6. How has Satan sought to picture God? (5).

7. Why did Jesus come to live among men? (5).

8. Who was Jesus to reveal? (6).

9. What was the work of Christ? (7).

10. What character traits were revealed in every act of His life? (7).

11. What did God do to reach our wants? (7).

12. List several methods Jesus used in dealing with people. (8).

13. Why did Jesus live, suffer and die? (10).

14. What broke the heart of Jesus? (10).

15. Why did God give Jesus to redeem us? (11).

16. Why could only Jesus accomplish our redemption? (13).

17. What is the duration of Jesus' ties with mankind? (14).

18. The sacrifice of Christ does what three things for mankind? (14).

19. What special position may the redeemed occupy? (15).

20. What thought has a subduing power upon the soul and brings the mind in captivity to the will of God? (16).

21. As we study the divine character in the light of the cross, what do we see? (16).



## Thought Questions

1. Why is understanding God's love essential to the plan of salvation?

2. How would you describe God's love?

3. How is God's love different from that which humans give?

4. How do our human relationships affect our perception of God's love?

5. How does our relationship with God affect our perception of love we receive from others?

6. Do we love by thinking or through the emotions?

7. In what way has God's love appeared most often in my life?

8. How can I know God loves ME?



9. Is love an action or a response? Is love learned?



10. How do you explain God's love with all the bad things that happen to people?



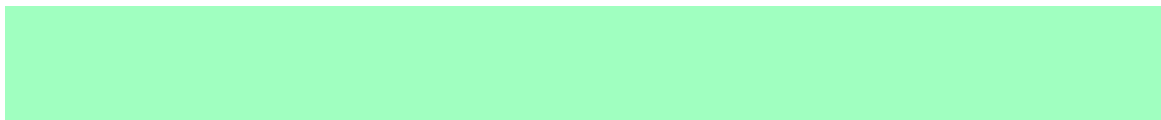
11. How can my love for God and love for others increase?



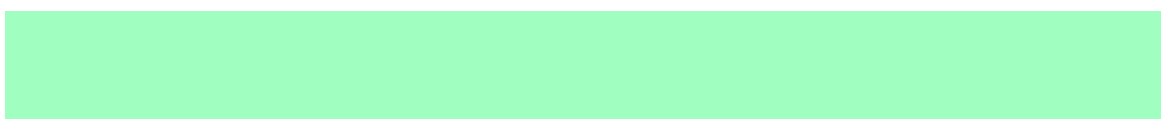
12. How do you relate to someone who loves you for selfish reasons?



13. How is it possible to love others who do bad things to you?



14. Does the God pictured in the Old Testament love differently than the God of the New Testament?



15. How should I love God?



16. In a list of important things, where is 1 Corinthians 13?



17. What part do training and discipline have in love?



18. How are feelings and the principle of love different?



19. [Add your questions].



## Problem Solving

The following person is the oldest of three children, and is a third generation Christian. He was baptized at twelve years of age as a result of attending a Christian school. Both parents are faithful church members, and very successful in their work. This person who is now twenty-two years old has fallen into sin, and is struggling with doubts that God could love him because of his sin. He tries to pray, but has no evidence that God hears or cares about the problem. How could you use the principles from this chapter or other sources to help solve this spiritual problem?

Notes: (You might work with the following information: causes, options, solutions, decisions, scriptures that apply).



## Additional Exercises

1. Start an "Appreciation List" of three things you are thankful for.



2. Additional reading:

*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 737-746.

"The Character of God Revealed in Christ."

*Education*, pp. 99-101.

"God In Nature."

*Education*, pp. 102-112.

"Lessons of Life."

3. Create an outline for Chapter 1.



4. Compare the first sentence in *Patriarchs and Prophets* and the last sentence in *The Great Controversy*.

5. Describe your favorite Bible example showing how God loves.

6. Count the word “love” each time it occurs in Chapter 1.

7. Describe one example of how the information learned in this chapter can help YOU in YOUR daily Christian life.

8. Prepare a short testimony (30-120 seconds) about how God has shown His love to you.

Done

9. Find at least one opportunity to explain what you have learned to one or more persons.

Done

## Ellen G. White Quotations

“The first step toward salvation is to respond to the drawing of the love of Christ.” (*Selected Messages*. vol. 1, p. 323).

“The very first step in approaching God is to know and believe the love that He has to us (1 John 4:16); for it is through the drawing of His love that we are led to come to Him.” (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*. pp. 104-5).

“Christ’s favorite theme was the paternal character and abundant love of God.” (*Testimonies for the Church*. vol. 6, p. 55).

“The perception of God’s love works the renunciation of selfishness.” (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*. p. 105).

“And only as we love God supremely is it possible to love our neighbor impartially.” (*The Desire of Ages*. p. 607).

“It is not the fear of punishment, or the hope of everlasting reward, that leads the disciples of Christ to follow Him. They behold the Saviour’s matchless love, revealed throughout His pilgrimage on earth, from the manger of Bethlehem to Calvary’s cross, and the sight of Him attracts, it softens and subdues the soul. Love awakens in the heart of the beholders. They hear His voice, and they follow Him.” (*The Desire of Ages*. p. 408).

“The fact that we are sinners, instead of shutting us away from the mercy and love of God, makes the exercise of His love to us a positive necessity in order that we may be saved.” (*Selected Messages*. vol. 1, p. 347).

“Every manifestation of creative power is an expression of infinite love.” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*. p. 33).

“The children of God are those who are partakers of His nature. It is not earthly rank, nor birth, nor nationality, nor religious privilege, which proves that we are members of the family of God; it is love, a love that embraces all humanity. Even sinners whose hearts are not utterly closed to God's Spirit, will respond to kindness; while they may give hate for hate, they will also give love for love. But it is only the Spirit of God that gives love for hatred. To be kind to the unthankful and to the evil, to do good hoping for nothing again, is the insignia of the royalty of heaven, the sure token by which the children of the Highest reveal their high estate.” (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*. p. 75).

“With untold love our God has loved us, and our love awakens toward Him as we comprehend something of the length and breadth and depth and height of this love that passeth knowledge. By the revelation of the attractive loveliness of Christ, by the knowledge of His love expressed to us while we were yet sinners, the stubborn heart is melted and subdued, and the sinner is transformed and becomes a child of heaven. God does not employ compulsory measures; love is the agent which He uses to expel sin from the heart. By it He changes pride into humility, and enmity and unbelief into love and faith.” (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*. pp. 76-7).

“When love fills the heart, it will flow out to others, not because of favors received from them, but because love is the principle of action. Love modifies the character, governs the impulses, subdues enmity, and ennobles the affections. This love is as broad as the universe, and is in harmony with that of the angel workers. Cherished in the heart, it sweetens the entire life and sheds its blessing upon all around. It is this, and this only, that can make us the salt of the earth.” (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*. p.38).



“But when we really believe that God loves us and means to do us good we shall cease to worry about the future. We shall trust God as a child trusts a loving parent. Then our troubles and torments will disappear, for our will is swallowed up in the will of God.” (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*. p.101).

“Christ does not drive but draws men unto Him. The only compulsion which He employs is the constraint of love. When the church begins to seek for the support of secular power, it is evident that she is devoid of the power of Christ—the constraint of divine love.” (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*. p.127).

“The power of love was in all Christ’s healing, and only by partaking of that love, through faith, can we be instruments for His work.” (*The Desire of Ages*. p.825).

“All the paternal love which has come down from generation to generation through the channel of human hearts, all the springs of tenderness which have opened in the souls of men, are but as a tiny rill to the boundless ocean when compared with the infinite, exhaustless love of God. Tongue cannot utter it; pen cannot portray it. You may meditate upon it every day of your life; you may search the Scriptures diligently in order to understand it; you may summon every power and capability that God has given you, in the endeavor to comprehend the love and compassion of the heavenly Father; and yet there is an infinity beyond. You may study that love for ages; yet you can never fully comprehend the length and the breadth, the depth and the height, of the love of God in giving His Son to die for the world. Eternity itself can never fully reveal it. Yet as we study the Bible and meditate upon the life of Christ and the plan of redemption, these great themes will open to our understanding more and more.” (*Testimonies for the Church*. vol. 5, p. 740).

“Love the basis of creation and of redemption, is the basis of true education.” (*Education*. p. 16).

“The history of the great conflict between good and evil, from the time it first began in heaven to the final overthrow of rebellion and the total eradication of sin, is also a demonstration of God’s unchanging love.” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*. p. 33).

## QUIZ – 1

Select True or False according to the reference:

1.  T  F Satan pictures God as watching for us to error, so that he may visit judgments upon us. (SC 1.5).
2.  T  F God loves us because we love Him. (1 John 4:19).
3.  T  F God is love. (1 John 4:8).
4.  T  F Earthly relationships can perfectly represent God's love. (SC 1.5).
5.  T  F Love, mercy and compassion were revealed in every act of Jesus' life. (SC 1.7).

Use one or more words to answer the following:

6. List one method of love Jesus used with people. (SC 1.8).

7. List one thing that describes or defines the principle of love. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8).

8. List one thing in nature that reveals the love of God. (SC 1.1-3).

9. Describe what we see when we study the divine character in the light of the cross. (SC 1.16).



10. What was our condition when God commended His love toward us? (Romans 5:8).



Select the radio button of the best answer according to the text.

11. How long will Jesus have ties to the human race? (SC 1.14).

- Until the second coming
- Throughout eternity
- Until the end of the millennium
- As long as the 7 last plagues

12. How do we perfect Gods love? (SC 1.14).

- By being a diligent Bible student.
- By fully using our spiritual gifts.
- By responding to the help of angels.
- By keeping God's word.

13. What cannot exist where love is? (1 John 4:18).

- Trust
- Kindness
- Justice
- Fear

14. Why was Jesus the only one who could redeem us? (SC 1.13).

15. Complete the following passage:

"The matchless love of God for a world that did not love Him!

The thought has a  upon the soul, and brings

the  into captivity to the ." (SC 1.16).