



Antonio Ciseri "Ecce Homo" (John 19:5)



# *Steps To Christ*

Ellen G. White

## Chapter 1 God's Love for Man

## Memory Verse – Genesis 1:27 (NKJV).

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

# Scriptures

New King James Version

# Scriptures

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

John 3:16 (NKJV). “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

## Scriptures

2. How did God bestow His love upon us?

1 John 3:1 (NKJV). “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called the children of God! . . .”

## Scriptures

### 3. How is God described?

1 John 4:7, 8 (NKJV). “<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 God is love.”



## Scriptures

### 4. How has God described Himself?

Exodus 34:6, 7 (NKJV). “<sup>6</sup> And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, ‘The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, <sup>7</sup> keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, . . . .’”

## Scriptures

### 5. How was God's love manifested?

1 John 4:9 (NKJV). “In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.”

## Scriptures

### 6. How is love described?

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NKJV). “<sup>4</sup> Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

<sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails. . . .”

## Scriptures

7. What was our condition when God loved us?

Romans 5:8 (NKJV). “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

## Scriptures

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

1 John 2:5 (NKJV). “But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.”

## Scriptures

9. How is God's love perfected in us?

1 John 4:12 (NKJV). “No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.”

## Scriptures

10. What cannot exist were perfect love is?

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



## Scriptures

11. What type of love does God have?

Jeremiah 31:3 (NKJV). “The LORD has appeared of old to me, *saying*:

‘Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.’”

## Scriptures

### 12. Why do we love God?

1 John 4:19 (NKJV). “We love Him because He first loved us.”

## Scriptures

### 13. Who loves like Jesus?

John 15:9 (NKJV). “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.”

## Scriptures

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

Ephesians 3:17-19 (NKJV). “<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 love of Christ which passes  
knowledge; that you may be filled with all the  
fullness of God.”

## Scriptures

15. What cannot the true Christian be separated from?

Romans 8:38, 39 (NKJV). “<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 love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

# Study Questions

## Study Questions

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

“Nature and revelation alike testify of God's love.”



## Study Questions

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

“The thorn and the thistle—the difficulties and trials that make his life one of toil and care—were appointed for his good as a part of the training needful in God’s plan for his uplifting from the ruin and degradation that sin has wrought.”

## Study Questions

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

“The sunshine and the rain, that gladden and refresh the earth, the hills and seas and plains, all speak to us of the Creator's love.”

“There are flowers upon the thistles, and the thorns are covered with roses.”

“‘God is love’ is written upon every opening bud, upon every spire of springing grass The lovely birds making the air vocal with their happy songs, the delicately tinted flowers in their perfection perfuming the air, the lofty trees of the forest with their rich foliage of living green—all testify to the tender, fatherly care of our God and to His desire to make His children happy.”

## Study Questions

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

“The word of God reveals His character.”

## Study Questions

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

“Through the things of nature, and the deepest and tenderest earthly ties that human hearts can know, He has sought to reveal Himself to us. Yet these but imperfectly represent His love.”

## Study Questions

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

“Though all these evidences have been given, the enemy of good blinded the minds of men, so that they looked upon God with fear; they thought of Him as severe and unforgiving.

Satan led men to conceive of God as a being whose chief attribute is stern justice,—one who is a severe judge, a harsh, exacting creditor. He pictured the Creator as a being who is watching with jealous eye to discern the errors and mistakes of men, that He may visit judgments upon them.”

## Study Questions

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

“It was to remove this dark shadow, by revealing to the world the infinite love of God, that Jesus came to live among men.”



## Study Questions

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

“The Son of God came from heaven to make manifest the Father.”

## Study Questions

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

“This was His work. He went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by Satan. There were whole villages where there was not a moan of sickness in any house, for He had passed through them and healed all their sick. His work gave evidence of His divine anointing.”

## Study Questions

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

“Love, mercy, and compassion were revealed in every act of His life; ...”

## Study Questions

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

“He took man’s nature, that He might reach man’s wants.”

## Study Questions

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

“Jesus did not suppress one word of truth, but He uttered it always in love. He exercised the greatest tact and thoughtful, kind attention in His intercourse with the people. He was never rude, never needlessly spoke a severe word, never gave needless pain to a sensitive soul.

“He did not censure human weakness. He spoke the truth, but always in love. He denounced hypocrisy, unbelief, and iniquity; but tears were in His voice as He uttered His scathing rebukes.”

## Study Questions

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

“It was to redeem us that Jesus lived and suffered and died.”

## Study Questions

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

“It was the burden of sin, the sense of its terrible enormity, of its separation of the soul from God—it was this that broke the heart of the Son of God.”



## Study Questions

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

“Christ was the medium through which He could pour out His infinite love upon a fallen world.”

## Study Questions

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

“None but the Son of God could accomplish our redemption; for only He who was in the bosom of the Father could declare Him. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it manifest.

Nothing less than the infinite sacrifice made by Christ in behalf of fallen man could express the Father's love to lost humanity.”

## Study Questions

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

“He who was one with God has linked Himself with the children of men by ties that are never to be broken.”

## Study Questions

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

“And all this that man might be uplifted from the ruin and degradation of sin that he might reflect the love of God and share the joy of holiness.”

## Study Questions

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

“Through faith in the atoning sacrifice of Christ the sons of Adam may become the sons of God.”

## Study Questions

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

“The matchless love of God for a world that did not love Him! The thought has a subduing power upon the soul and brings the mind into captivity to the will of God.”

## Study Questions

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

“The more we study the divine character in the light of the cross, the more we see mercy, tenderness, and forgiveness blended with equity and justice, and the more clearly we discern innumerable evidences of a love that is infinite



and a tender pity surpassing a mother's yearning sympathy for her wayward child.”

# Thought Questions

## Thought Questions

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

## Thought Questions

2. How would you describe God's love?

## Thought Questions

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

## Thought Questions

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

## Thought Questions

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

## Thought Questions

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



## Thought Questions

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

## Thought Questions

8. How can I know God loves ME?

## Thought Questions

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

## Thought Questions

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

## Thought Questions

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

## Thought Questions

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

## Thought Questions

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

## Thought Questions

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



# Thought Questions

15. How should I love God?

## Thought Questions

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

## Thought Questions

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

## Thought Questions

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

# Thought Questions

19. [Add your questions].

# Problem Solving

## 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

## Additional Exercises

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

## Additional Exercises

### 2. Additional Reading:

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

“The Character of God Revealed in Christ.”

Education, pp. 91-101. “God in Nature.”

Education, pp. 102-112. “Lesson of Life.”

## Additional Exercises

3. Create an outline for Chapter 1.

## Additional Exercises

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

## Additional Exercises

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

## Additional Exercises

6. Mark the word “love” each time it occurs in *Steps To Christ*, Chapter 1, and record the number of occurrences.

## Additional Exercises

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



## Additional Exercises

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

## Additional Exercises

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

# E. G. White Quotes

*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 323

“The first step toward salvation is to respond to the drawing of the love of Christ.”

*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing,*  
pp. 104, 105

“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.”

*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 55

“Christ’s favorite theme was the paternal character and abundant love of God.”

*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 105*

“The perception of God’s love works the renunciation of selfishness.”

*The Desire of Ages*, p. 607

“And only as we love God supremely is it possible to love our neighbor impartially.”



*The Desire of Ages*, p. 480

“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.”

*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 75*

“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.”

*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 347

“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.”

*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing,*  
pp. 76, 77

“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, p. 38*

“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. 101*

“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. 127*

“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.”

*The Desire of Ages, p. 825*

“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.”

*Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 33*

“Every manifestation of creative power is an expression of infinite love.”

*Education, p. 16*

“Love the basis of creation and redemption, is the basis of true education.”

*Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 33*

“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.”

*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 740*

“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.”

# Quiz

## Quiz

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).

## Quiz

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).

## Quiz

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

Did not suppress one word of truth, but He uttered it always in love. He exercised the greatest tact and thoughtful, kind attention in His intercourse with the people. Never rude, never needlessly spoke a severe word, never gave needless pain to a sensitive soul.

He did not censure human weakness. He spoke the truth, but always in love. He denounced hypocrisy, unbelief, and iniquity; but tears were in His voice as he uttered His scathing rebukes.”

## Quiz

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

Suffers long, kind, does not envy, doesn't promote self, not proud, not rude, not self-seeking, not easily provoked, does not think evil, does not rejoice in iniquity, rejoices in the truth, bears, believes, hopes and endures all things.

## Quiz

8. List one thing in nature that reveals the love of God. (SC 1:1-3).

Sun, rain, hills, seas, plains, flowers on thistles, thorns covered with roses, plants, birds, flowers, trees.



## Quiz

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

Mercy, tenderness and forgiveness blended with equity and justice.

## Quiz

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

## Quiz

11. How long will Jesus have ties to the human race?  
(SC 1.14).
- A. Until Jesus returns.
  - B. Throughout eternity.
  - C. Until the end of the Millennium.
  - D. Until the seven last plagues begin.

## Quiz

12. How do we perfect God's love?  
(1 John 2:5 NKJV).

- A. Be a diligent Bible student.
- B. Seek to know our spiritual gifts.
- C. Respond to the help of angels.
- D. Keep God's word.

## Quiz

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

- A. Trust.
- B. Kindness.
- C. Justice.
- D. Fear.

## Quiz

14. Why was Jesus the only one who could redeems us? (SC 1.13)
- A. The angels could not resist sin on the earth.
  - B. We needed to have Jesus to love.
  - C. He was the only one who could make the love of God manifest.
  - D. Because He made us.

## Quiz

15. Complete the following:

“The matchless love of God for a world that did not love Him! The thought has a SUBDUING POWER upon the soul and brings the MIND into captivity to the WILL OF GOD.” (SC 1.16.)

## Contact

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