

May 2017 Prayer Theme Did You Learn to Love?

1 John 3:17 “If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?”

Does the sorrow of others move us with **Compassion** – compassion moved the soul of Jesus and touched His heart.

Compassion is a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering.

Compassion needs to be nurtured and practiced or even this **basic love response** can become dull and grow cold.

Ex.34:6 “The Lord, the Lord, the **compassionate** and gracious God”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten son, that whosoever, believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

We wound the soul of Jesus continually through our lack of holy compassion.

Matthew 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

God is “a **compassionate** and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in **love** and faithfulness”.

Psalms 86:15 “But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in mercy and loving-kindness and truth.”

Like all of God’s attributes, His compassion is infinite and eternal. His compassions never fail; they are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23).

Matt.22:37-39 “And He replied to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (intellect). This is the great (most important, principal) and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as [you do] yourself.”

John 13:34, 35 “I give you a new commandment: that you should love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too should love one another. By this shall all [men] know that you are My disciples, **if** you love one another [if you keep on showing love among yourselves].”

Honoring others in love

Rm 12:10 “Love one another with brotherly affection [as members of one family], giving precedence and showing honor to one another.”

Learn to love our enemies

Matt. 5:44,45 “But I tell you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, To show that you are the children of your Father Who is heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the wicked and on the good, and makes the rain fall upon the upright and wrongdoers [alike].”

Love others like God loves us

John 15:12-14 “This is My commandment: that you love one another [just] as I have loved you. No one has greater love [no one has shown stronger affection] than to lay down (give up) his own life for his friends. You are My friends if you keep on doing the things which I command you to do.”

Knowing God is knowing love

1 John 4:7-8 “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is (springs) from God; and he who loves [his fellowmen] is begotten (born) of God and is coming [progressively] to know and understand God [to perceive and recognize and get a better and clearer knowledge of Him]. He who does not love has not become acquainted with God [does not and never did know Him], for God is love.”

1 Corinthians 13:3-10 (MSG)

“If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don’t love, I’ve gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I’m bankrupt without **love**.”
1 Cor. 13:3

Love never gives up.

Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have.

Love doesn’t strut,

Doesn’t have a swelled head,

Doesn’t force itself on others,

Isn’t always “me first,”

Doesn’t fly off the handle,

Doesn’t keep score of the sins of others,

Doesn’t revel when others grovel,

Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,

Puts up with anything,

Trusts God always,

Always looks for the best,

Never looks back,

But keeps going to the end.

Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.” 1Cor. 13:8-10

More scriptures to be studied:

Matt. 9:36 Helpless crowds

Matt. 20:34 Blind men

Matt. 14:14 Sickly masses

Lk. 15:20 Waiting father

Mark 8:2 Hungry people

Love puts you into position for Victory!