



THE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH

February 11, 2018 Winter Quarter Volume 37 Lesson 11
Valentine's Day

LOVE FOR THE FAMILY

SCRIPTURAL LESSON: *Colossians 3:18-25*

GOSPEL TRUTH:

The true measure of a person's love for their family is demonstrated through their actions. God demonstrated His love for the world displaying the greatest example of what true love is. *"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"* (John 3:16).

GOLDEN SCRIPTURE:

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God (I John 4:7).

THE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH DOCTRINES:

1. God is love (*I John 4:8*).
2. Love is the great commandment of God (*Matthew 22:37-40; Mark 12:30-31*).
3. As Christians, our outward love toward our family should be a reflection of God's love within us (*I John 4:20-21*).
4. Our family is a blessing from the Lord (*Psalms 128:1-6*).
5. "Nurture and admonition of the Lord" means to teach and instruct our children in the way of the Lord with patience and love (*Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4*).

BACKGROUND SETTING:

The desire to love and be loved is one that we are born with. However, how we love is something that we learn. Past experi-

ences also shape how we love and by those who we care about. For many, the word "love" brings to mind romantic love, yet our first love is not a romantic one. Our first experience with love is the love shared between parent and child. The family is the foundation of one's ability to love and accept love. This is not only because it is the first love one experiences as a husband, wife or child; parenthood is also an essential part of the human experience of love because family and love are intricately intertwined.

In the Apostle Paul's letter to the Church at Colosse, Paul addresses three sets of rules for relationships within every Christian household: (1) husbands and wives, (2) parents and children, and (3) slave owners and slaves. In each relationship, however, there is a mutual responsibility to (a) submit and love; (b) to obey and encourage; and (c) to work hard and be fair. As true born-again believers in Jesus Christ, we must examine our relationship with our family daily. Is all that we do for them done from our heart out of love? *"Let all your things be done with charity"* (*I Corinthians 16:14*).

LESSON SUMMARY:

Within every Christian family, "love" should be at the center of its core. Love is the spiritual fruit built from godly character and commitment. It is the fiber of our moral center that stretches throughout our mind, body and soul, embracing and holding together our relationships when it sealed as a choice and commitment, not just a feeling. Love combined with the other characteristics of the Fruit of the Spirit (*Galatians 5:22-23*) within every family member will create a hospitable and content home. Thus, the spiritual fruit will promote our ability to relate to our family and to grow in our relationships with them where "God's love" is at the forefront!

Yes, love for our family is about placing Christ first above all and allowing His love within you to flow through you and into your family as well; it is about God's love within each family member together in unison.

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