



STUDY GUIDE / WORKBOOK

BIBLICALLY THINKING

— about —

LOVING GOD

The First and Greatest Commandment



TOPICAL SELECTIONS TO SAVOR & SHARE

"Thy words were found, and I did eat them" —Jer 15:16a

THE BEREAN CALL



BIBLICALLY THINKING ABOUT LOVING GOD

STUDY GUIDE / WORKBOOK

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LOVING GOD

THE PURPOSE of this study guide is to help the participant to better understand the topic and how it is either supported by or deviates from the Word of God. As with any tool designed to help with one's understanding, one size may not fit all, i.e., needs may differ. The following are simply study recommendations that each individual may implement depending upon his or her desired goals.

Our prayer is that you will find this study guide helpful for your growth in discerning the times as the return of the Lord draws near—times that the Scriptures warn will involve false doctrines and false teachers. The following questions are arranged to coincide with the narrative of the booklet and may be used as a supplement to the booklet as you read. —TBC

Introduction

1 Read or write out Deuteronomy 6:4-5. What did the Law say concerning human relationships with the Creator?

2 In John 14:23, what did the Lord Jesus say about an individual's relationship with God?

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3 Read or write out Romans 2:14-15. What did the Law written “in every conscience” require? Why?

4 Read or write out Matthew 22:37-38. What is the first and greatest commandment?

5 Concerning “love,” what will God never do? List some scriptures.

6 How did the writers of the Psalm express their love for God? See Psalm 42:1-2 and Psalm 63:1.

7 *What course of study is not listed in many theological seminaries?*

8 *Read or write out Luke 10:38-42. What can we learn from the example of Martha?*

9 *List some points that define biblical love.*

10 *What role does our knowledge of God play in our love of God?*

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11 *As our understanding of God grows, what will our response likely be?*

12 *How does this understanding aid our “love of God?”*

13 *On the other hand, how does psychology interfere with our love for God?*

14 *What did the Lord Jesus teach Simon the Pharisee about Love, and what example did He give?*

15 *How does this lesson stand in contrast to teachings on “self-esteem?”*

16 *How does the concept of the “worth of man” conflict with the biblical nature of God’s love?*

17 *Read or write out 1 Corinthians 15:10. How does Paul’s view differ from the teaching of self-esteem?*

18 *Why can’t denial of self and self-esteem co-exist?*

God is Love

19 *What basic element do we find among those who reject Christ?*

20 *Read or write out Isaiah 1:2-3. What do God's pleadings to Israel demonstrate concerning sin?*

21 *In Genesis 1:26-27, what do we learn about the nature of man and the original purpose of God in creating him?*

22 *Read Genesis 1:31. What did God say about His original creation?*

23 Read or write out 2 Thessalonians 2:7 and Proverbs 4:23. What do we learn in these verses about what lies within man's heart?

24 What role does the "will" of man have concerning "love?" See also Matthew 16:25, John 12:24).

25 Read Deuteronomy 4:39 and 6:5-6. What do these verses tell us concerning the will and the emotions in "loving God?" (See also 1 Sam 12:24, 25 and Joel 2:12, 13.)

26 What impact did the rebellion of Satan have upon the world? In what ways do we still see the effects of this around us today?

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27 *Read or write out Genesis 6:8. What does the experience of Noah teach about the Love of God for humanity?*

28 *What is the “great proof of God’s love for humanity? What verse is associated with this truth?*

29 *Describe the difference between “God is loving” and “God is love.”*

30 *In Genesis 3:7, what impact did the sin of Adam and Eve have upon them and their descendants?*

31 Read or write out Romans 3:23. What effect did the sin in the Garden have on mankind concerning the Love of God?

32 What does this void create in the heart of man?

33 Read or write out Jeremiah 2:12, 13. What has humanity done in order to fill this “void?” Describe what that means.

34 In John 17:26, what did Christ’s prayer indicate about the purpose of God’s love?

35 Describe what happens through the new birth of a believer. What then becomes our part of the relationship?

God So Loved

36 How is God's love for children specifically demonstrated?

37 What shows the "great manifestation of God's love?" What scriptures lead us to this conclusion?

38 In what ways do certain "theological teachings" conflict with the biblical account of God's Love?

39 Read or write out Galatians 2:20. What conclusions did Paul reach concerning the Love of God?

40 In Matthew 5:44, Christ admonished His followers to “love your enemies.” Does God love His enemies? Give examples. How far was the Lord willing to go to prove that love?

41 Read or write out Luke 23:34. What did Christ’s declaration on the Cross reveal concerning the Love of God?

42 Read or write out 1 Timothy 2:4,6. What does this say about the Lord’s love for “all?”

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43 Read or write out 1 John 4:19. What is the simple biblical reason for loving God?

44 What additional scriptures show the love of God of “all?”

45 Read John 1:29,36. How do the Old Testament sacrifices foreshadow the sacrifice of Christ for “all?”

46 Read or write out Ephesians 2:4. How does the love of the Father parallel His love for humanity?

Love is Commanded

47 Review the commandment in Deuteronomy 6:5. In what way does this define the relationship God intended between Himself, Israel, and all mankind?

48 Since loving God is commanded in this scripture, what does it mean if we neglect to obey this “first and greatest commandment”?

49 What is the second commandment? Can you provide other verses that confirm the admonition in this one?

50 Without God’s grace and the redemptive work of Christ, what would be implication for humanity?

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51 *Read or write out Matthew 22:40. What did Jesus say concerning the Love of God and man's love for others?*

52 *What type of love does humanity focus upon?*

53 *Considering the previous discussion of psychology and its effect upon the church, who originated the teaching of self-love?*

54 *Read or write out 1 Corinthians 13:3. What is the sad result of a lack of love for God in spite of otherwise good works?*

55 Read or write out Deuteronomy 10:12. What does this and scriptures such as Deuteronomy 30:6 and 30:20 say about the requirements and promise of God?

56 As “love is commanded” by the Lord, where does love begin?

57 How are we commanded to love?

58 What occultic practices are becoming more popular in the church today?

59 Read or write out 1 Peter 3:4. What did Peter tell us to focus upon?

The Love of God in Christ

60 What is “undoubtedly the most wonderful declaration one can hear?”

61 Scripturally, what has God repeatedly said to humanity?

62 Read or write out 1 Corinthians 13:4. How was God’s love fully demonstrated?

63 Read or write out in full Psalm 90:2 and Malachi 3:6. How do these verses show that love is in the very essence of God's being?

64 Read Psalm 36:7. How is the kindness of the Lord characterized?

65 Read or write out 1 John 4:12. How does love show that God is dwelling within us?

66 Read the account of Paul's conversion in Acts 9:3-6 and 26:13-15. How do scriptures such as 2 Corinthians 5:17 show Paul's wonderful understanding of the love of God?

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67 *Read or write out 2 Corinthians 5:14, 20. What was Paul's passion?*

68 *What is the most important element of our relationship with the Lord? What should be the results on our side when we understand this great love?*

69 *What is the "measure of Christian love today?"*

70 *Read or write out 1 John 4:7-8. What does this say about the indwelling supernatural love Christ?*

71 *List some characteristics of the Love of God and how our love should parallel His?*

Loving God

72 Read or write out Matthew 22:35-40. In discussing the “first and great commandment . . . and the second is like unto it, how did Christ divide the 10 commandments into two sections? See also Exodus 20:2-17.

73 What commandment does Christ not comment upon?

74 In considering the “two commandments,” what did the Lord declare was hanging upon loving God and loving our neighbors?

75 What command can be too easily forgotten in church and daily life?

76 Read or write out 1 John 4:19. What motivation is listed for loving God?

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77 Read 1 Timothy 2:4. If all are called to love God, what can we know about God's desire for the salvation of all people?

78 In God's dealing with humanity, what are the two factors working in the heart of man?

79 Read or write out Psalm 119:36, 112. What does the Psalmist pray concerning the two factors at work?

80 In Psalm 119:15-20, what are the commands and consequences in loving or not loving God?

81 What scriptures can be listed that show the sovereignty of God?

82 *What other scriptures remind us of the responsibility of man?*

83 *How has man's ability to "choose" been affected by popular teachings in the Church?*

84 *Read or write out Isaiah 55:7 and Jeremiah 29:13. How does God's mercy show His love for all of humanity?*

85 *Read or write out John 7:37 and Matthew 11:28. What does the Lord promise those who are "thirsty" and come to Him?*

ABOUT THE BEREAN CALL

SEVEN YEARS after publication of the controversial ground-breaking bestseller *The Seduction of Christianity* in 1985, its authors—Dave Hunt and T.A. McMahon—joined forces on another front. The Berean Call was formed under the direction of Dave Hunt for the purpose of encouraging spiritual discernment among those who regarded themselves not just as “evangelicals” but as biblical Christians.

The ministry and newsletter name is taken from Acts 17:11—in which the writer of Acts commended those in the synagogue of the Greek city of Berea for being more fair minded than those in Thessalonica; because not only were they eager to receive the Word, but the Bereans also checked it against what the Apostle Paul taught them in order to see if his teaching was according to the Scriptures.

*The Berean Call (TBC) is a non-denominational,
tax-exempt organization which exists to:*

ALERT believers in Christ to unbiblical teachings and practices impacting the church

EXHORT believers to give greater heed to biblical discernment and truth regarding teachings and practices being currently promoted in the church

SUPPLY believers with teaching, information, and materials which will encourage the love of God’s truth, and assist in the development of biblical discernment

MOBILIZE believers in Christ to action in obedience to the scriptural command to “earnestly contend for the faith” (Jude 3)

IMPACT the church of Jesus Christ with the necessity for trusting the Scriptures as the only rule for faith, practice, and a life pleasing to God

