

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series on Letters to New Christians. Today's topic: A PORTRAIT OF LOVE.

1) The centrality of agapé love

- a. What theme do you hear in Paul's testimony about agapé love to Christians in Corinth? 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
- b. How can we be filled with such amazing love? Romans 5:5, Luke 11:13
- c. What prophecy regarding agapé love did Jesus give concerning the last days of earth's history? Matthew 24:12
- d. Where do you see a lack of agapé love in the world today?
- e. Share a time when you saw the agapé love of God revealed.

2) A description of agapé love

- a. 1 Corinthians 13:4a,6b-8a What positive aspects of agapé love are highlighted in these verses?
- b. Which of these positive aspects of agapé love impacts you the most?
- c. How does Paul's description of agapé love in Galatians 5:22-23 reinforce the testimony found in Romans 5:5?

3) What agapé love is not

- a. 1 Corinthians 13:4b-6a What are some things agapé love does not do?
- b. Why doesn't the Apostle Paul simply focus on the positive aspects of agapé love?
- c. Which of these negative characteristics are most common in our world today?

- d. Which of these negative characteristics has been displaced from your life as you have been filled with the agapé love of God?

4) Agapé love revealed in the life of Jesus

- a. Where do you see the agapé love of God revealed in the life of Jesus? John 13:1, Mark 10:16, Matthew 14:14, etc.
- b. What appeal did Jesus make to His disciples in response to His agapé love? John 13:34, 15:9,12
- c. How did the Apostle John respond to this revelation of God's agapé love? 1 John 3:1,16, 4:12

5) The greatest of these is agapé love

- a. 1 Corinthians 13:13 How did the Apostle Paul conclude his discussion about agapé love?
- b. How important is faith for the Christian? Hebrews 11:6, Ephesians 2:8, 1 John 5:4, etc.
- c. How important is hope for the Christian? 1 Thessalonians 4:13, Romans 15:13, etc.
- d. Why is agapé love greater than even saving faith or enduring hope? Colossians 3:14, 1 John 4:12, etc.

