

## **Bible study for learning what it means to love others**

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it. ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Matt. 22:37-39)

What is the second greatest commandment?

If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother. (1John 4:20-21)

Can you love God and **not** love others at the same time?

### **Principle #1 Loving God, is loving others.**

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. (1Jn 3:16-18)

If we love others, what should we do for them?

### **Principle #2 Loving others, is laying down our lives.**

Philippians 2:3-4 says “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

Whose needs should you put first, yours or others?

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. (Rom. 12:10)

Who should you honor the highest, yourself or others?

“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matt 20:26-28)

If you want to be great in God’s eyes, should you tell others what to do, or be a servant?

### **Principle #3 Loving others means putting their needs first.**

Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars

in the universe. (Phil.2:14-15)

How should we act if we want to be blameless and pure children of God?

Romans 12:18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 14:19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace.

Hebrews 12:14 Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

Does God *really* want us to live at peace with everyone, with no disagreements or fighting?

What is peace?

Peace- freedom from disagreement or fights

## **Principle #4 Loving God and loving others is making every effort to not fight or disagree!**

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. (James 4:1-2)

What causes fights and disagreements?

## **Principle #5 Fighting is caused by selfish desires.**

**The following pages can be printed and posted as reminders of the principles and application of this Bible study.**

# Love Others

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## **Principle #5 Fighting is caused by selfish desires.**

**1. I will remember that everyone has the same needs, wants and desires as I do.**

**2. I will remember that making my desires more important than others, is selfish.**

**3. I will give up my selfish desires so that I can get along with others.**

**4. I will be happy with what I get, rather than fighting or sulking.**

**5. I will make every effort not let my selfish desires cause me to fight or disagree with people.**

**6. I will not allow my needs, wants and desires to become so important to me that I am willing to fight with others.**

**7. I will enjoy how everyone gets along, when no one is selfish.**