

Ephesians Series

Lesson #188

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Spiritual Skills: Loving Others

Deuteronomy 6:5–8; Leviticus 19:18; John 13:34, 35



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

In this lesson:

- **Understanding two types of love**
- **Defining love as “Biblical love for all mankind” and “Christian love for one another”**
- **Biblical characteristics of love**

What we have already learned:

- **Basic spiritual skills: the foundation for more advanced skills**

What the Bible Teaches About

**Spiritual Skills for
LIFE**



Joy/Inner Happiness/Tranquility of Soul
James 1:3; John 15:11: 17:13

**Personal Love
for God**
Deut. 6:5

**Biblical Love for All;
Christian Love for
Other Believers**
Lev. 19:18; Jn. 13:34, 35

**Occupation with
Christ**
Heb. 12:2; Php. 3:20

Personal Sense of our Eternal Destiny
Col. 3:24; 1 Pet. 1:4

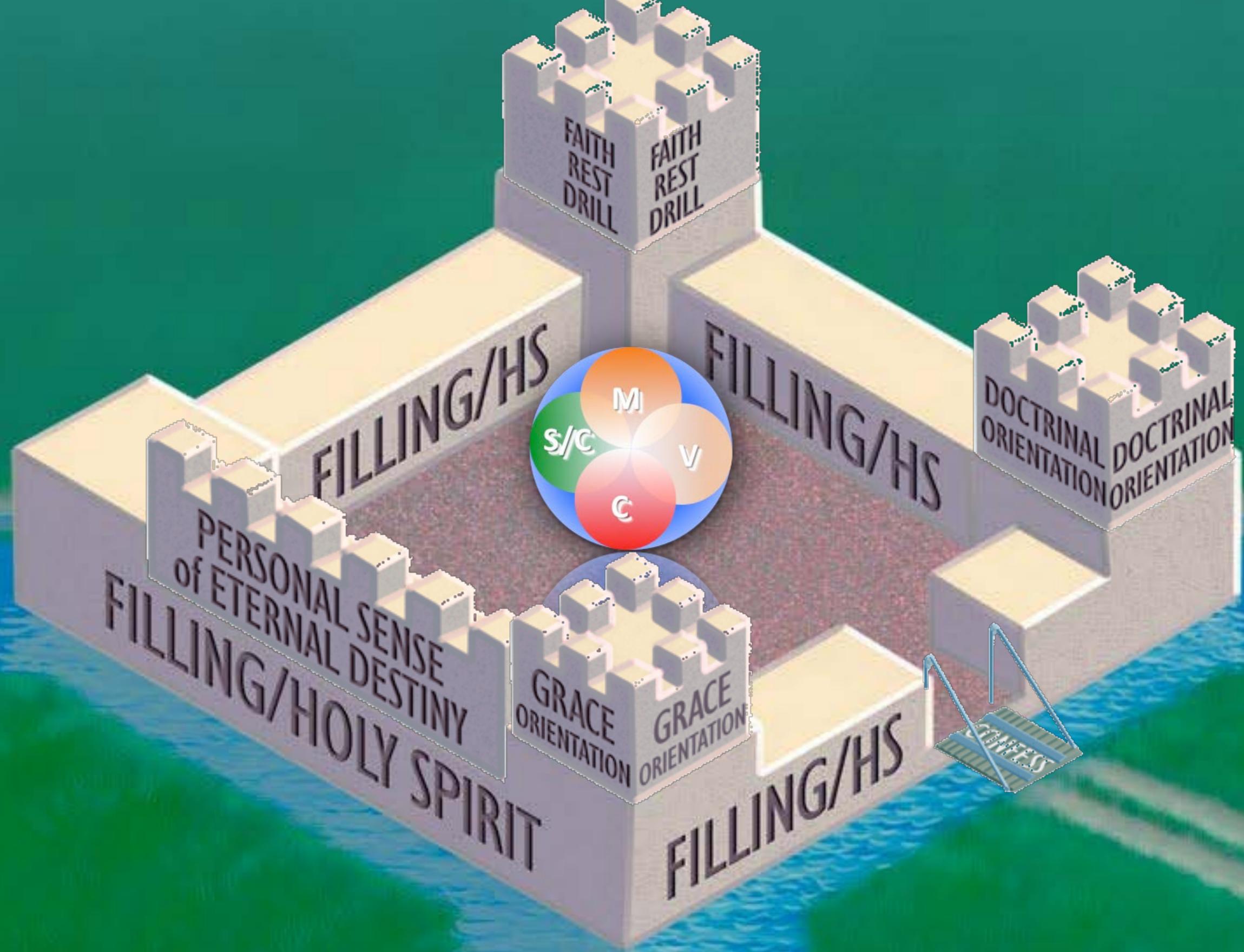
Faith-Rest Drill
Prov. 3:5, 6

Grace Orientation
Eph. 2:8, 9
2 Pet. 3:18

**Doctrinal
Orientation**
2 Pet. 3:18

Walking by the Spirit/Filled by the Spirit
Gal. 5:16

Confession of Sin, 1 John 1:9



What we have already learned

- **The pattern for understanding love is the cross.
John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; 1 John 4:9**
- **Love for God is measured by obedience, not emotion.**
- **Love for God motivates the believer to press on to spiritual maturity.**

#7 Personal Love for God

Deut. 6:5, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

Deut. 11:1, “Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always.”

#7 Personal Love for God

Luke 10:27, “So he answered and said, ‘ “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,” and “your neighbor as yourself.” ’

Luke 10:28, “And He said to him, ‘You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.’ ”

What the Bible Teaches About

Understanding Love



The connection between these skills:

- 1. Personal love for God**
- 2. Biblical Love for All Mankind: BLAM /
Christian Love for One Another: CLOA**
- 3. Occupation with Christ**

*** The Mosaic Law did not begin the ethical or spiritual absolutes stated there, but encased them in the Law of Israel. This is analogous to their political constitution for the nation. Just as murder, theft, perjury were wrong before the Constitution of the US, they were included within the law of the land.**

*** The summary principles for loving the Lord our God with all of our being is repeated in the New Testament. The only one of the 10 commandments not repeated in the New Testament is the Sabbath Law.**

Covenant Theology: All laws of the Torah are still in effect unless they were specifically repealed. This is consistent with their overall theology of one people of God.

Dispensationalism: All of the Mosaic Law was abolished at the Cross; unless commands were repeated in the New Testament, they are abolished. Every commandment of the 10 was repeated except the Sabbath.

1. To understand “love” we must begin with God and the illustration of our salvation.

1 John 4:9, “In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.”

1 John 4:10, “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

1 John 4:11, “Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

1 John 4:7, “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”

a. Love originates with God: love is of [from] God is a genitive of source indicated by the preposition *ek* (ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ, *ek tou theou*)

2. Thus, the love God has for us, shown at the Cross, is the love we are to have for one another.

1 John 4:11, “Beloved, if [since] God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

John 3:16, “For God loved the world in this way: He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Rom. 5:8, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

3. An attempted definition:

Love is a mental attitude toward others which desires the best for them according to the standards of God's integrity and thinks and acts toward them consistent with that desire and standards.

4. Biblical love for all mankind is based on Lev. 19:18:

Lev. 19:18, “You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”

Examples:

Ex. 23:4, “If you meet your enemy’s ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him again.

Ex. 23:5, “If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden, and you would refrain from helping it, you shall surely help him with it.”

Examples:

Lev. 19:34, “The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.”

Prov. 24:29, “Do not say, ‘I will do to him just as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work.’ ”

Matt. 5:39, “But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

Matt. 5:40, “If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.

Matt. 5:41, “And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.

Matt. 5:42, “Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.”

Matt. 5:43, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’”

Matt. 5:44, “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,” ”

5. An emphasis on Lev. 19:18 is not legalism, or transferring a commandment of the Law to the Church, for it is repeated seven times in the New Testament (3 ✕ in the Epistles):

Matt. 19:19; 22:39; Mark 12:30–33; Luke 10:27; Rom. 13:8–10; Gal. 5:14; James 2:8.

Rom. 13:9, “For the commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ ‘You shall not covet,’ and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Gal. 5:14, “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Gal. 5:15, “But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!”

James 2:8, “If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you do well;”

And used many times in illustrative ways.

1 Pet. 3:9, “not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.”

Lev. 19:18

Directed to:

Israel

“but you”

Command:

“shall love”

To whom:

“your neighbor”

Standard:

“as yourself”

John 13:34

“A new commandment”

Directed to:

**“you” the Church by way of
the disciples**

Command:

love

To whom:

one another (other Christians)

Standard:

as I have loved you

6. Two types of love are commanded in the Bible.

- a. Biblical Love for All Mankind: based on Lev. 19:18.
Like other ethical commands of the Mosaic Law, this is not the beginning of this law. This was exhibited in Abraham, Gen. 13, 14, 18.**

This is commanded in the New Testament. Love for all mankind.

**Gal. 5:14, “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: *‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’*”
cf., Lev. 19:18.**

6. Two types of love are commanded in the Bible.

b. Christian Love for One Another: John 13:34, 35

John 13:34, 35, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Gal. 5:13, “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

Gal. 5:14, “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: ‘*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*’ ” cf., Lev. 19:18. [Biblical Love for All Mankind]

7. This is indeed a demonstration of grace. “Love” that is not based on grace is not love.

What the Bible Teaches About

Understanding Christian Love



1. John 13:34–35 sets love as the ultimate indication of the fact that we are disciples, we are learning, applying, growing believers in Christ who walk by the Spirit.

Jn. 13:34, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

Jn. 13:35, “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” [NKJV]

2. The greatest example of love: John 3:16; Romans 5:8

John 3:16, “For God loved the world in this way—He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Rom. 5:8, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

3. Christian love is only produced in us by the Holy Spirit as a result of walking by the Holy Spirit.

Gal. 5:13, “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

Gal. 5:14, “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: ‘*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*’ ” cf., Lev. 19:18. [Biblical Love]

Gal. 5:16, “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

Gal. 5:22, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,”

4. Christian love for one another includes forgiveness:

Eph. 4:32, “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving [being graciously forgiving toward] one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

5. An attempted definition of Christian love:

Love is a mental attitude toward others which desires the best for them according to the standards of God's integrity and acts toward them consistent with that desire and standards. Christian love is impossible apart from a walk by the Spirit and spiritual growth.

6. Application

- Live our lives as much as possible by walking in partnership with the Holy Spirit toward the goal of spiritual maturity (biblical fellowship).**
- Think and pray about our reactions to others when we know we are not exhibiting Christian love.**
- Don't get discouraged. Developing a biblical love for others is a lengthy process related to our own spiritual growth.**