

**Program:** SS Panel 2025 1 Q

**Quarterly title:** God’s Love and Justice

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**Lesson Title:** #2 Covenantal Love

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**Section title:** Thursday - You Have Freely Received - Freely Give

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**Note:** This color and font = quarterly text

**Note:** This color and font = John Dinzey notes

**Lesson 2**

*January 4-10*

## Covenantal Love

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### SABBATH AFTERNOON

**Read for This Week’s Study:** 2 Pet. 3:9, Deut. 7:6–9, Rom. 11:22, 1 John 4:7–20, John 15:12, 1 John 3:16.

**Memory Text:** “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him’ ” (John 14:23, NKJV).

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**THURSDAY**

*January 9*

**You Have Freely Received; Freely Give**

\*\*\*READ\*\*\*

Just as the servant could never repay his debt to his master, we can never repay God. We could never earn or merit God's love. **"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"** (Rom. 5:8, NKJV). What amazing love! As 1 John 3:1 puts it, "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!" (NKJV).

However, **what we can and should do is to reflect God's love to others as much as we possibly can.** If we have received such great compassion and forgiveness, how much more should we bestow compassion and forgiveness on others? Recall that the servant forfeited his master's compassion and forgiveness because he failed to bestow them on his fellow servant. If we truly love God, we will not fail to reflect His love to others.

>> God wants us to share his love with others. As the lesson six if you truly love, God, we will not fail to reflect his love to others.

**Leviticus 19:9-10** 9 'When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10 And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the Lord your God.

**Luk 6:38** Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

**Mat 6:14** For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

**Mat 6:15** But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Read John 15:12, 1 John 3:16, and 1 John 4:7–12. What do these passages teach about the relationship between God's love, our love for God, and love for others?

**John 15:12** 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

>> Loving others is a choice

**1 John 3:16** 16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

>> **the greatest demonstration of love the human race has ever known is that God gave his only begotten son to die for us...**

**1 John 4:7–12** 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

**8** He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

>> Notice that it says here if you do not love you do not know God...

**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.

**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.

### **Seeing God Through Love**

**12** No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

Just after John 15:12, Jesus told His disciples,  
" 'You are My friends if you do whatever I command you' " (*John 15:14, NKJV*).  
And what did Jesus command them? Among other things, Jesus commanded them (and us) to love others even as He loved them. Here and elsewhere, the Lord commands us to love God and to love one another.

\*\*\***READ**\*\*\*

In short, we should recognize that we have been forgiven an infinite debt, one that we can never repay, a debt paid only at the cross for us. Therefore, we should love and praise God and live with love and grace toward others. As Luke 7:47 teaches, the one who is forgiven much, loves much, but “ ‘to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little’ ” (NKJV). And **who among us doesn't realize just how much he or she has been forgiven?**

>> if you notice that the last words I read says who among us doesn't realize just how much you she has been forgiven. We know but we seem to forget that we should forgive others as we are forgiven...

\*\*\***READ**\*\*\*

If to love God entails that we love others, we should with urgency share the message of God's love, both in word and in deed. We should help people in their daily lives here and now, and also seek to be a conduit of God's love and point people to the One who offers them the promise of eternal life in a new heaven and a new earth—an entirely new creation from this world, which is so marred and ravaged by sin and death, the doleful fruits of rejecting God's love.

**John 13:35** By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

**What specific steps can you take to love God by loving others? What could you do today and in the coming days to show people God's love and (eventually) invite them to enjoy what it means to have the promise of eternal life?**