

Studies in Christianity Christian Love #20

S#1.

Love Believes All Things

S#2.

Text : **John 6: 60-71 ; Corinthians 13: 1-7**

A. We have been studying one of the fundamental doctrines of Christianity. S#3.

1. The most fundamental doctrine of Christianity is the doctrine of God.
 - a. There is one God and He is Jehovah. (*Not Allah, Not the Buddha, Not Brahma*)
 - b. The one true God is manifest in Three Personalities. (*Father, Son, and H.S.*)
2. The one true God spoke the entire universe into existence.
 - a. Earth and all that is on it was created by God.
 - b. Man and the animals were all created by God ... not random evolution.
 - c. God retains ownership of His creation and sovereignly reigns over it.
3. Man was created sinless and placed into a sinless environment.
 - a. Being sinless, man had direct face to face contact with God.
 - b. Satan tempted to first couple and they sinned by violating the ONLY command.
 - c. Having been corrupted by sin, man was no longer privileged to interact with God.
 - d. Being isolated from God, man became increasingly sinful and corrupted.
 - e. There was no way to return to the sinless condition of creation. (*No way to merit*)
 - f. God the Father sent God the Son to provide a way to reconcile man to Himself.
4. That reconciliation, **i.e.**, man's salvation is by faith in that work of God the Son.
 - a. God the Son existed in Heaven as God before being born of a virgin on earth.
 - b. God the Son came to the earth and was born of a woman so He would have a body to sacrifice as the propitiation for the sins of man. (*to redeem, ransom man*)
 - c. God the Son was born of a virgin and named Jesus, (*means savior*)
 - d. Jesus led a sinless life and was crucified as the ultimate sin offering. (*Passover*)
5. After Jesus died on the cross and was buried, He was resurrected on the third day.
 - a. After His resurrection, for 40 days Jesus made many appearances to His followers.
 - b. Jesus instructed His followers to tell everyone about Him, then He ascended.
 - c. Jesus is now at the right hand of God interceding to keep saved people saved.
6. Saved believers now live in anticipation of the return of Jesus.
 - a. The return of Jesus will mark the end of the earth and all that is on it.

- b. beginning with the believers, everyone will be resurrected.
- c. There will be a great judgment in which the saved and lost will be separated.
- d. The saved will go to be with God eternally and dwell in Heaven.
- f. Those who were not saved (not know God and obey gospel) will be exiled.
- g. Few will go to be with God; the vast majority will be lost in Hell.

*** This is why I keep emphasizing the need for us to be different from the world.**

B. These are the cardinal doctrines upon which Christianity hinges. but while saved believers wait for the return of Jesus, love is the cardinal doctrine by which we live our daily lives and conduct ourselves . S#4.

1. Jesus said love was at the core of the Old Testament law and the prophets.

Matt. 22: 36 – "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" **37** And He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' **38** "This is the great and foremost commandment. **39** "The second is like it, ' You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' **40** "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." S#5.

2. The Holy Spirit presents love as the solution to the problems of the troubled church.

I Cor. 13: 4 – Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, **5** does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, **6** does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; **7** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. S#6.

C. In order to understand the section we are studying context is very important.

1. One cannot discuss Christian love without discussing love for God,

I John 4: 8 – The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. S#7.

2. It is essential that Christians practice love in the same way Jesus did .. God on earth.

- a. Jesus was driven by a love for the lost but continued to love those who were saved.
- b. The context of **I Cor. 13** is love between members of the church, i.e, saved people.

*** THEREFORE,** it's primary interpretation must be regarding love between brethren.
Bear this in mind as we progress through the lesson.

C. Our main points will be :

S#8.

1. What it's probably not.
2. Understanding the terms.
3. Practical effects of the concept.
4. Commitment to God.

I. What “believes all things” probably does not mean.

S#9.

A. This cannot mean that the Christian believes everything he is taught.

1. Christians are warned not to be easily lead astray by teachers.

Eph. 4: 14 – As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; **15** but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, S#10.

2. We are warned not to accept any other doctrines.

Gal. 1: 8 – But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! S#11.

3. We are instructed not to receive anyone who teaches different doctrines.

II John 9 – Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. **10** If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; **11** for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds. S#12.

* - You will stand before God as an individual. You alone will be accountable #13.
For what you do and what you believe. If you accept an error or allow yourself to be misled, you will be held accountable for your error. The bible alone is inspired by God and without error. In spite of their best efforts, even the wisest men make errors. ALWAYS verify EVERY teaching with the scriptures.
(*Remember the account of the young prophet.* I Kings 13: 11f)

B. The most naïve person in the world will not believe everything people say.

1. We reject gossip outright.
2. **I Tim. 5: 19** ... We reject accusations against an elder without witnesses.
3. God does not require us to be taken advantage of by those malicious intent.
 - a. In a town near an interstate highway we had a constant stream of grifters.
 - b. One does not want to become hardhearted, but must exercise common sense.
 - c. About this verse Calvin commented : ... a Christian man will reckon it better to be imposed upon by his own kindness and easy temper, than to wrong his brother by an unfriendly suspicion.

C. Some teach that this means we love other people enough to only believe the best.

1. This is a good attitude to have, but it is not the message of “believes all things.”
2. Anything taught by a famous teacher will be repeated for generations.

II. What is the proper understanding the terms. (Believes all things.)**#14.****A. There are two keys to understanding this phrase, first defining believe.**

1. My understanding of this word changed my understanding of the passage.
 - a. The English word chosen by the translator is unfortunate.
 - b. It is not in error, but it is not the best word to convey the Spirit's meaning.
2. The original word (*pisteuo* / strg #4100) is translated in a number of ways. **#15.**
 - a. believe
 - * b. commit unto / to
 - c. be put in trust with

B. The understanding of "all things" requires some understanding.**#16.**

1. The word "Things" is NOT in the original text; it is added by the translators.
2. The word in the original which is translated as "all things" is "**pas** / strg #3956."
 - a. It means "all" or "the whole"
 - b. Translated : all, all things, every, everyone, everything, whatsoever, whosoever, all manner, any, always, etc.

C. The translation of the two words can technically be many differing things, but the context must determine the proper word choice. (tend to follow previous)

1. Our context is the acts involved in Christians loving each other.
2. The two concepts of the words are commitment and all, every.
3. Thus, the Holy Spirit is telling us not to give up on our brethren. (*commit everything*)

III. What are the practical effects of "committing all" on our relationships ?**#17.****A. We understand the concept of love being a commitment to others.****#18.**

1. For example, marriage vows ... sickness & health, richer or poorer,
2. Years ago I read a story of how a song came to be in our hymnal.
 Brilliant young college student pursuing engineering degree was engaged to a beautiful young lady. As graduation approaches they began planning their wedding. The young man began having severe headaches which were affecting his vision so he went to the doctor. He learned that he was going blind. When she learned he would eventually be blind, she immediately broke off the Engagement, saying, "*I don't want to be the wife of a blind man.*" She was not committed to him in the way "believes all things" describes. Broken hearted, the young man retreated into his studies and became a noted theologian who also wrote songs for the church.

B. The marriage commitment lasts far beyond the time of physical attraction and seeks to serve the other in every way possible..

1. When one is truly committed to another person he serves that person.
 - a. **Mark 10: 43** – But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to **#19.** become great among you shall be your servant; **44** and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. **45** "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
 - b. **Gal. 5: 13** – For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your **#20.** freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **14** For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
2. The Corinthian brethren forgot that the gifts were given to them to use in service.

I Pet. 4:10 – As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving **#21.** one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
3. When each serves the other before self, the needs of both are met.

C. Those who have been in a committed relationship will never again feel complete outside of such a relationship.

1. It is not uncommon for one who was in a happily committed relationship to begin seeking companionship very soon after their spouse has died.
- * 2. How much more one who loses his relationship with God.

D. Those who are in a committed relationship learn how to identify with the other party to the point of feeling what he feels.

1. For example : I had sympathy pains when my wife was in labor the first two times.
2. That is the relationship that is supposed to exist between Christians.

Rom. 12: 15 – Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.
- * 3. The point is that we are to be so committed to our brethren that we develop a bond that we will not allow to be severed. (*Only way church discipline works*)

IV. What effect does “committing all” have on our relationship with God ? **#22.**

A. Ask yourself, would I still love God IF ... **#23.**

1. We live in a land of plenty in a time of prosperity so loving God is easy.
2. We live in a place where modern medicine keeps us functioning even when ...
3. Transportation is easy so we can go the to worship in comfort, even if far
4. We have the freedom to assemble most any time or place of our choosing.
5. We may get some mild social pressure, but we can each proclaim freely Christ.

B. Serving God has not always been so easy as we have it, for example :

On September 7th in 1850, seven British missionaries set sail from Liverpool under the direction of Allen Francis Gardner, a decorated member of the Royal Navy. These seven set out for the Patagonia coastal region of South American. (Chili & Argentina) They were well supplied and left with high hopes for the advancement of the gospel of Christ among the natives, but their endeavors ended in total failure. The natives were very hostile, the climate was harsh and unforgiving and their supply ship arrived way too late. All seven of the missionaries die of starvation and disease before it arrived.

The surgeon on the trip, Richard Williams, was one of those who perished. When his body was eventually recovered, his journal was found along with it. On the last page of his journal was found this entry : Should anything prevent my ever adding to this, let my beloved ones at home rest assured that I was happy beyond all expression the night I wrote these lines and would not have exchanged situations with any man living. Let them also be assured that my hopes were full and blooming with immortality and Heave and love and Christ which mean one and the same divine same thing for my soul. The hope of glory filled my heart with gladness and to me to live is Christ and to die is gain.

1. *This is an example of "love believes" all things.*
2. If you were halfway around the world from home, suffering scurvy, starving, and about to freeze to death, what would you have written ?

C. Would you still love God "IF" ... ?

#24.

1. He had put you on a cross to die slow agonizing death ? **Jesus said,**
Luke 23: 46 – And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." Having said this, He breathed His last.
2. While suffocating on the cross, Jesus used His last breath to express commitment.
3. What if the dearest one in all the world was suddenly snatched from you
thousands of miles from home while you were serving Him ? #25.
 - a. When my wife died I resented God allowing Satan to do that to me,
but I realized that was what happen to God when Jesus died on the cross.
 - b. My faith survived the tears, but one o my children blamed God and is only
now beginning to get a handle on his resentment.
4. Would you still love God if your lovely little baby was being eaten by cancer.

D. Love is totally committed REGARDLESS of external circumstances.

#26.

INVITATION :**Have you made a commitment to God ? (CONTEXT)**

#27.

S#28. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**John 6: 60-71**

60 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this said, " This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?" **61** But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, "Does this cause you to stumble? **62** "What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? **63** " It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. **64** "But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him. **65** And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."

66 As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. **67** So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?" **68** Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. **69** "We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God." **70** Jesus answered them, " Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?" **71** Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.

I Corinthians 13: 1-7

1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **3** And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, **5** does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, **6** does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; **7** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.