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**Lesson Five: New Testament Teaching on Love.**

**Introduction.** The focus of our study is on *loving* those who constitute our spiritual family. We have noticed throughout our study that this demands behavior that is much different than that which is practiced within the world. This stems from the fact that the New Testament teaches principles of love that are unique.

**I. Jesus’ Teaching the Night before His Death on Love** (John 15:9-17).

A. “Love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12).

1. What determines the standard for proper conduct that is loving?

2. How may this be done?

3. What are some characteristics of this that are different from the world?

B. “Greater love has no one than this…” (John 15:13).

1. What does Jesus teach is the greatest demonstration of love?

2. How did He do this?

3. What are some ways John says this may be demonstrated (1 John 3:16-18)?

C. “As the Father loved Me…” (John 15:9-10).

1. How has Jesus loved His disciples?

 What results from this?

**II. Paul’s Teaching on Love .**

A. Paul’s words to the church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 13:1-8a).

1. What three types of things does Paul say are of no value without love (1 Cor. 13:1-3)?

2. In our spiritual family can there ever be a danger of the problem of envy (1 Cor. 13:4b)?

 How?

3. In our spiritual family can one “parade” himself or be “puffed up” (1 Cor. 13:4c)?

 What if this was not the person’s intention? How can this be corrected?

4. What characterizes “rude” behavior (1 Cor. 13:5a)?

 What if a brother or sister doesn’t consider the behavior “rude”?

5. How is it that love is “not provoked’ or “easily provoked” (KJV; 1 Cor. 13:5b)?

 What does being “provoked” have to do with love?

 If we are “easily provoked” what does it say about our love for another?

6. Explain the difference between “endur*ing* all things” and being taken advantage of (1 Cor. 13:7c).

 Is there ever a time it is better to accept wrong (cf. 1 Cor. 6:1-7)?

B. Paul’s words to the church in Rome (Romans 12:9-21).

1. How might love be hypocritical (Rom. 12:9a)?

2. What are some ways we might be able to “rejoice” and “weep” with our spiritual brethren (Rom. 12:15)?

3. Explain the phrase “be of the same mind toward one another” (Rom. 12:16).

 How might this relate to our spiritual family?

4. If we feel wronged by a brother or sister, what must we not “repay” to the person (Rom. 12:17)?

5. Why does Paul say that peaceable living with others must be done “as much as depends on you” (1 Cor. 12:18)?