



We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. – 1 John 4:16

If I am going to become a loving person, I will have to understand that I was underserving of Our Father's Love. And after I have received His love and begun to enjoy His love, I will have to remember how undeserving I was and that I was equally as undeserving as everyone else in my world, or else I will begin to choose to love some and not love others because I have now become more deserving than THEM.

By This We Know We Have Been Loved

- I. By the Price that's Paid to Love
II. By how Little we Deserve Their Actions
III. By the Benefits we Receive through Their Act
IV. By the Freedom they have in Choosing to Love or Not

How Underserving We Were ... Romans 5:1-11

- I. The _____ is our _____ to Understand His Love ... (5) Cp. 1 Corinthians 2:10-12; 6:19
II. Before His Love _____, We Were ... (6-11)
a. _____ ... Cp. 1 Corinthians 1:28-29
b. _____ ... Cp. Romans 3:18; 1:18
c. _____ ... Cp. Romans 3:23; 6:23; Psalm 22:6
d. _____ ... Cp. Romans 8:7-8; Matthew 5:43-44
III. The "_____" and its _____ ... (11) Cp. Romans 6:1-2; 7:22-25

The Underserving and HIS Love

- I. We were _____ because of Point II above
II. The _____ is Equally _____ of His Love
III. Will you Allow His Love to _____ ?

1. Have you ever been shunned by someone? Looked down upon from someone? Felt judged by someone? Work through details of that experience. How did you respond? Was the person a "Christian?" Did it in any way affect how you viewed God either at that moment or even later in life? Explain.

2. Read the following verses on being at war with God.

James 4:4-10 Acts 13:10-11 1 John 4:2-6
Philippians 3:17-19 Romans 5:6-11 Matthew 6:23

What do these Scriptures teach us about the characteristics of the enemies of God? About their destiny? About their responsibilities? Can you find within these Scriptures that might reference even a believer living as an enemy of God?

3. Consider James 4:4-10. Read it through in several translations. Who is being addressed here? What people? What is/are the warning(s)? What is the solution?

How does pride play into our Christian life? What affect does it have upon our choices? Upon our relationship with Christ? Upon how we treat others? Read Matthew 5:43-48. Read it as a whole. If you consider the context, how would perfection be defined in vs. 48? What part of our Christian faith is in question as it relates to perfection in this context?

- 4. Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder.
a. Why does the popular teaching on self-esteem and self-love militate against our experience of God's great love?
b. Some argue that while we were sinners before conversion, now we should not view ourselves as sinners, but only as saints. What Scriptures would you use to agree with this or refute this?
c. Is it right to lead off an evangelistic presentation by telling lost people that God loves them? Is there any biblical basis for this? What biblical guidelines apply here?
d. How does any form of works salvation undermine a person's experience of God's amazing love in Christ?

If you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? – Matthew 5:46-47



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II. By how Little we Deserve Their Actions
III. By the Benefits we Receive through Their Act
IV. By the Freedom they have in Choosing to Love or Not

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- I. The Holy Spirit is our Key to Understand His Love ... (5)
Cp. 1 Corinthians 2:10-12; 6:19
II. Before His Love Reconciled Us, We Were ... (6-11)
a. Helpless ... Cp. 1 Corinthians 1:28-29
b. Wicked ... Cp. Romans 3:18; 1:18
c. Wayward ... Cp. Romans 3:23; 6:23; Psalm 22:6
d. Enemies ... Cp. Romans 8:7-8; Matthew 5:43-44
III. The 'NOW' and its Dangers ... (11)
Cp. Romans 6:1-2; 7:22-25

The Underserving and HIS Love

- I. We were Underserving because of Point II above
II. The Whole World is Equally Underserving of His Love
III. Will you Allow His Love to Overtake You?

- 1. Have you ever been shunned by someone? Looked down upon from someone? Felt judged by someone? Work through details of that experience. How did you respond? Was the person a 'Christian'? Did it in any way affect how you viewed God either at that moment or even later in life? Explain.
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