

Study 9

COLOSSIANS 3:5-17

LOVE DIFFERENTLY

A recent global campaign promoted the motto, “*Love is love.*” It seemed to imply that if two people ‘loved’ each other, even if the morality or appropriateness of their relationship was questionable, everyone else should not just *approve*, but *celebrate* it. But there is a problem with this motto. The term “love” has now become a catch-all word for a range of emotions and relationships which are quite different from each other. For example, we might say, “I *love* ice-cream” or “I *love* my Grandmother” or “I *love* playing Monopoly” or “I *love* you.” In each instance, the word *love* means something different, which therefore means that it cannot be true that *love is love.*

1. Based on First Corinthians 13:4-7, in one sentence, how would you summarise into your own words this Biblical definition of love?

2. How might Colossians 3:5 challenge the world’s understanding of love?

3. What does Colossians 3:7 imply that conversion to Christianity will result in?

4. According to Colossians 3:8-10, who is responsible for the believer’s repentance and transformation

“Sanctification” (Rom. 6:19, 22) is the word used to describe the process a believer goes through as they become holy and more like Christ.

5. How does Paul describe the will of God in First Thessalonians 4:3?

6. Paul states in Colossians 3:10 that the believer’s growth in Christ is fuelled by an increasing knowledge. What kind of *knowledge* might Paul be referring to?

This *knowledge* is not only for the elite or the highly educated, but is people from all nationalities and social classes (Col. 3:11).

7. Because we are all equal — and each have equal access to God — because of Christ, how are we to treat each other according to Colossians 3:12-14?

8. Read Colossians 3:15. How could you tell if someone was applying this verse?

9. Based on Colossians 3:16 what is it that should undergird and inform our worship together as a church family?

10. Why, according to Colossians 3:17, should we regard our ‘mundane’ activities as worship?

Amen.