

Name: _____

Date: _____

BECOMING MORE LIKE CHRIST (I): LOVE, JOY, PEACE

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22–23)

Objectives

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i> | God’s love is sacrificial. God’s joy is not dependent on our circumstances. God’s peace is found through peace in God’s presence, peace with ourselves, and peace with others. |
| <i>Knowledge of God</i> | God is love. He is the true source of joy. God is peace. |
| <i>Good Works</i> | Demonstrate our love and joy for others in the power of the Holy Spirit. Strive to experience God’s peace. |

A. Love (1 Jn 4:8)

Jesus demonstrated perfect love by laying down His very life. It transcends human love and is the purest and highest form of self-sacrifice. This is the form of selfless “love” that God wants us to develop within ourselves.

Living Out the Love of God (Rom 5:5)

With the Spirit’s power, instead of prioritizing ourselves, we will set aside our own plans, and act with patience and goodness for others. We will be willing to sacrifice our time and energy to help others and learn to love even when we don’t feel like it. We will learn not to fail God (1 Cor 14:4–8).

B. Joy (Jn 15:11)

Worldly joy is temporary. If something good happens, we feel happy as a result, but only for a short period of time. The joy of the Bible refers to a deeper, lasting joy that can give us strength (Neh 8:10).

The Joy of the Lord

Worldly happiness is based on material objects or circumstances, but the joy of the Spirit springs from within our heart, making it possible for us to have joy even during trials, sorrow, or pain (1 Thess 1:6).

1. *In everything give thanks (1 Thess 5:16–18):* A joyful person recognizes God’s blessings.
2. *Seek out God’s presence (Ps 16:8–9, 11):* The closer we are to God, the greater joy we’ll receive.
3. *Give generously even in trials (2 Cor 8:2):* The most blessed are those who give (Acts 20:35).

C. Peace (Phil 4:6–7)

The peace of the world depends on the things of the world. The peace of God doesn’t depend on these external factors but is the highest form of tranquility that comes from harmony with God and with men.

The Peace of God

1. *Peace with God (Ps 119:165):* When we are reconciled with God, we can find peace with Him, and our lives will change completely. Our thoughts will be centered on God, and we no longer need to fear for our future.
2. *Peace with ourselves (Ps 139:14):* Peace with ourselves isn’t just acceptance of what God gave us, but also complete trust in His power and creation.
3. *Peace with others:* The Holy Spirit can help to fill us with the compassion and love to forgive, forget, and get along with others with the peace of God.

Life Application: My Action Plan

Name: _____

Date: _____

Lesson 3 Homework Assignment

Becoming More like Christ (I): Love, Joy,
Peace

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Read | | | | | | | |
| Pray | | | | | | | |

Memory Verse (Galatians 5:22–23):

1. Why does God want us to bear the fruit of the Spirit? How do we do it, other than through prayer?
2. “Now may the God of _____ fill you with all _____ and _____ in _____, that you may abound in _____ by the _____ of the _____.” (Romans 15:13)
3. What makes the joy of the Lord different from the joy of the world?
4. God’s peace has three levels. What are they? Which do you need to work on the most, and why?
5. Of the three characteristics we studied in this lesson, which do you need to work on more? Explain why you believe this – what specific actions do you take that demonstrate the opposite of godly love, joy, or peace? Other than praying for the Spirit’s help, come up with a plan to avoid acting similarly in the future.