

- What is the fundamental reason why we should love one another (4:11)?
- As Christians what is the “badge” that we wear (John 13:35)?



THINK IT THROUGH

A.W. Pink wrote: “the measure of our love for others can largely be determined by the frequency and earnestness of our prayers for them”. Do you agree? Is this true in your experience?



INVESTIGATE

Read Colossians 3:12-14

C. Love: the glue that brings it all together

- What is the result of the Christ-like love that is described here (v14)?
- Share examples of this love being practised in the life of the Oakhall Church family.
- Are you part of the “glue”?



TAKE ACTION

Matthew Henry said: “The surest evidence of our love for Christ is obedience to the laws of Christ...Love is the root, obedience is the fruit”. Let’s seek with God’s help this week to love him more and express that by being more obedient and open to loving, serving and forgiving others, even if it is costly.



PRAY IT THROUGH

- Thank God that we love God because He first loved us
- Pray for people you find difficult to love; ask God to extend his love through you.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will help us to “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love” (Romans 12:10), loving “each other deeply” (1 Peter 4:8).

9 A DAY BECOMING LIKE JESUS

SMALL GROUPS SHEET
WEEK BEGINNING 19 JANUARY 2014

2. LOVE

Oakhall
CHURCH WELCOMES YOU



FOR STARTERS

Love can mean an intense feeling of affection or emotion expressed by a person. Or it can be a great pleasure or interest directed at something; a person or thing that one loves. Someone's "love" may be doing cross stitch, playing golf, or watching their children in a nativity play.



BACKGROUND

In his deeds whilst on earth, and through his sacrificial death for us, Jesus is the ultimate example of love. He shows us what love is all about and how we should express our love to him and each other.

The four short passages that follow show us more of this in practice.



INVESTIGATE

Read Mark 12:28-34

One of the teachers of the law (a Pharisee) is impressed by the responses Jesus has given in an earlier debate. What question does he now pose and how does Jesus reply?

At the time of Jesus, the Jews had accumulated more than 600 laws. Some teachers regarded them as equally important; other teachers taught that some were major and others minor in importance. So why is Jesus' answer both clear and simple?



THINK IT THROUGH

As Christians, do we sometimes think more of what we should not be doing rather than the positive things that we should be doing? How does this passage help us to re-direct our minds?



INVESTIGATE

Read 1 John 4:7-12

A. Loving the Lord your God

Why should we love God?

- Because _____ (v19).
- It is a sign of _____ (v7b, 16b).
- It is his _____ (Mark 12:30).

How do we express our love for God?

- Psalm 27:4 _____
- Psalm 119: 16, 35 _____
- 2 Corinthians 8:3-5 _____
- 1 John 5:3; John 14:21 _____



THINK IT THROUGH

We enjoy being with people whom we love and in places that we love. Do we enjoy coming to church and worshipping God, seeing it as a way in which we express our love to God?

We keep pictures of those we love because they speak to us of them. The Bible is God's word, speaking to us of Jesus. How "attached" are we to it?



INVESTIGATE

Read 1 John 3:11-20

B. Loving each other

- Why is it so important that we love others (3:14)?
- How does Jesus model the type of love we should show others (3:16)?
- In the face of Christ's sacrifice, the challenge to love seems impossible. But how are we told to express our love for one another (3:17)?