

things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails ...

The love of God, as seen in the Lord Jesus, imbues us with love if we let it. He said: "... if I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to me." (John 12:32). He died on the cross for us, that includes you.

1 John 4:8 He who does not love does not know God; for God is love. 9 In this was revealed the love of God towards us, in that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

1 John 4:19 We love him (God), because he first loved us.

Romans 5:8 ...God commends his love to us, in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Galatians 3:1 Oh foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ has been evidently portrayed, crucified among you? 2 I would learn from you just this, Did you receive the Spirit by the works of law, or by the hearing of faith?

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Philippians 2:1 So, if there is, in Christ, any companionship, if any of love's soothing, if

any of the Spirit's sharing together, if any compassion and empathy, 2 complete my joy by thinking the same way, having the same love, being soulmates with one purpose, 3 doing nothing in rivalry nor from empty self importance; but in humility each esteeming the other better than themselves. 4 None of you must be concerned about your own things, but each one of you should instead be concerned about the things of others, 5 because you should allow the same attitude to be in you, which is in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, existing in the rank of God, was not insistent on holding in his grasp being altogether equal with God 7 but relegated himself, taking on himself the rank of a slave, becoming like humans. 8 Moreover, finding himself in form as a human, he humbled himself, becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Moreover, for this very reason, God has highly exalted him, and granted him a name which is above every name: 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of beings in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth; 11 and that every tongue should emphatically acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

DIRECT TRANSLATION

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### TEST EXERCISE

Write a letter to your friend explaining from the Bible how God changes hearts.

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# Authentic Christianity

STUDY 09

DECENTLY AND ORDERLY

# "Authentic Christianity"

## **Study 9**      **DECENTLY AND ORDERLY**

### **Current Eccentricities**

The early church was required to do everything in a decent and orderly manner.

1 Corinthians 14:40 Let everything be done decently and orderly.

Nowadays "faith healers" make specious claims of cures. Sick folk come away disappointed. The exhibitionism displayed as worship would be comical if it wasn't serious. The Holy Spirit is brought into disrepute. God will judge the perpetrators.

Matthew 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy will be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven unto men.

Hebrews 10:29 Of how much sorer punishment, do you suppose, will he be considered worthy, who ... insults the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, Vengeance belongs to me, I will repay, says the Lord. And again, The Lord will judge his people. 31 It is a frightening thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

The ability to perform miracles was a temporary measure. It was transferred only by those apostles who were personally commissioned by Christ.

Acts 8:18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money ...

1 Corinthians 9:1 ... am I not an apostle? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are you not my work in the Lord? 2 If I am not an apostle to others, yet without doubt I am to you: because you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 12:12 Truly the evidences of an apostle were totally consistently practised by you, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds. 13 For what is it in which you were inferior to other churches ..

The apostles of Christ have passed away together with the miraculous gifts, which included the ability to prophesy, speak in unlearned languages, cure diseases and deformities. On the completion of the scriptures, the gifts of knowledge and prophecy (vital in the churches infancy) became superfluous.

1 Corinthians 13:8 Love never fails: but whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are languages, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will fail. 9 For we know bit by bit, and we prophesy bit by bit . 10 But when that which is complete arrives, then that which is piecemeal will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I understood like a child, I thought like a child: but when I became a man, I put away childlike things. 12 For now we see in a mirror obscurely; but then face to face: now I know incompletely; but then I will know just as I am also known. 13 but now faith, hope, love, continue, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

### **Genuine Christlikeness**

Faith, hope and love remain the hallmarks of the Lord Jesus' followers. In the next life, faith and hope will have fulfilled their purpose and love will be supreme.

John 13:35 All men will know that you are my disciples by this, if you love one another.

Love must not be confused with lust.

Matthew 5:28 ... I tell you, That whoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.

1 John 2:16 For everything that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and life's pride, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

Love does not seek self gratification and does not have devious ulterior motives. Love is a genuine, unselfish and active concern for the ultimate welfare of others.

1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love suffers long, and is kind; love envies not; love vaunts not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Does not behave itself unseemly, seeks not her own, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil; 6 Rejoices not in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 Bears all