

Personal/Small Group Study

Week of November 12, 2023 A.D.

Christ Is Your Life. He Really Is!

The reason for our life on earth is to discover who God is, who we are, and how we are to relate to God and to each other. Let's talk about that in this lesson.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read Romans 8:28

1. What is your personal definition of love? What are the primary experiences and influences which have shaped and formed your definition of love? In the grand scheme of life, what priority do you assign to the giving and receiving of love? Do you love God? If so, how do you express and/or show your love for God?
2. Do humans have the freedom to choose to do whatever they want to do regardless of the desires and the will of God? Does God have the power and authority to do whatever He wants to do regardless of the desires and will of man? Is God obligated to arrange the details of our lives so that all things "work for the good" (a) of everybody and/or (b) of those who love Him?

Read Matthew 22:35-38

3. Does God want every person to love God more than we love any other person or thing? If so, (a) why? and (b) is that possible to do?

Read Matthew 22:37-40 and 1 John 4:19-21

4. Is it the will of God that every human is to love every human? If not, why not? If so, why?

Read Romans 8:28 and John 15:9-14

5. Does God show favoritism toward those who choose to love Him? Is it God's desire for all people everywhere to know and love God? Please explain your answers. Also, please discuss the meaning of each of the verses found at 12, 13, and 14.

Read Ezekiel 28:11-19

6. These verses are believed to describe the past glory and future destruction of Satan. Do you believe that: (a) Satan is real; (b) Satan is a supernatural being/fallen angel; (c) Satan hates God; (d) Satan hates all humans because humans are loved by God; and (e) most humans do not believe that Satan exists? Please explain the reason for your answers.

7. Would we be able to understand and embrace the teaching of Romans 8:28 (a) if there was no presence of evil in the world and/or (b) if everything in the Bible which describes the loving nature of God were not true?

Read Romans 8:29 and Ephesians 1:3-6

8. Could we love God (a) if He did not give to us the freedom not to love Him? and/or (b) if God did not first demonstrate His unconditional love for us by providing the sacrificial death of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins?
9. What does it mean "to be conformed to the likeness of his Son"? Can a person be conformed to the likeness of Christ without (a) the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit of God; (b) hearing and obeying the Word of God and/or (c) seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness?
10. Does Romans 8:29 state that all humans are members of the universal family of God? Will all people go to heaven? What does Paul mean when he states that Jesus "might be the first born among many brothers"?

Read Matthew 20:20-28

11. Did Jesus ever (a) complain about serving God and/or (b) refuse to minister to the needs of other people? Is serving other people an essential requirement of being "conformed to the likeness of his Son"? Can a person be a follower of Christ without willingly and routinely serving other people? What is the primary area of service which has been assigned to you by Christ?

Read 1 John 2:15-17

12. In your opinion, is the American church doing a good job of obeying these verses? Can a person be a Christian if "the love of the Father is not in him"? Must a person be willing to obey the two commands stated by Jesus in Matthew 22:37 - 40 before that person can experience the benefit of the promises of Romans 8:28 - 29?

Consider: God's plan for the life of every person is to give to us the opportunity to become the children of God. Our mission on earth is to cooperate with God in bringing that plan to its fulfillment. "You think about that." Amen.