

DISCIPLESHIP TODAY

A Discipleship Center Publication – February 2016

THIS MONTH'S FOCUS – Christian Love

They Said It:

"Every Christian would agree that a man's spiritual health is exactly proportional to his love for God." – C.S. Lewis



"It is said of Abraham Lincoln that he never forgot a kindness, but that he had no room in his mind for the memory of a wrong.....Love keeps a list of its creditors but none of its debtors." – W. Graham Scroggie

"Spread love everywhere you go. First of all In your own house.....let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness; kindness in your face...your eyes...your smile...your warm greeting." – Mother Teresa

"People are renewed by love. As sinful desire ages them, so love rejuvenates them." – Augustine of Hippo

Readings from the Scriptures:

Day 1 – Psalm 52:8

Day 2 – Mark 12:32-33

Day 3 – I Corinthians 13:4-7

Day 4 – II Thessalonians 1:3

Day 5 – Philemon 7

Day 6 – I Peter 4:8

Day 7 – I John 3:17-18

Try this Memory Verse:

"By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35)

Discipleship TIPS:

- If you are part of a small group, suggest that your group do a study on Christian love, using a small group resource, or simply doing a short-term study on I Corinthians 13.
- Go to www.biblegateway.com, and type the word "love" in the search box. Make it your goal to read every New Testament verse that contains the word "love". Briefly share one or two insights from what you read with another Christian, your small group, or your Sunday School class.

Resource Recommendation:

Know any good books that talk about Christian love? We'd like to hear about those! The first 7 people to respond with a suggestion (dcentercny60@gmail.com or 315-256-6548) will receive a gift from TDC and that suggestion will be listed in the next edition of *Discipleship Today*. Respond today!

Ministry Needs

- More opportunities, in local churches, to present TDC workshops.
- The video recording (and distribution) of TDC workshops.
- Ed & Sharon Darling, as they continue to invest their lives in the ministry of TDC.
- God has provided so many answers to prayer in the first 2.5 years of TDC – we praise Him for His goodness!

For workshop information, or to become a sponsor of TDC, please see our website at www.discipleshipcenter.org or you may contact us at: Ed Darling, Founding Director, 3356 E. Genesee Street Road, Auburn, NY 13021; edarlin1@gmail.com // dcentercny60@gmail.com // (315) 256-6548.



On-Line Giving

We are very grateful for your financial gifts to TDC, through letters, workshop offerings, and donated items. Did you know that you could also make financial contributions through on-line giving? Here's how:

- 1) Go to our website, www.discipleshipcenter.org
- 2) Click on the word "Sponsor"
- 3) Click on the "Donate" button, and follow the instructions.



The SURVEY Says:

In 2015, the Barna research group, in conjunction with The Navigators ministry, conducted a study called "The State of Discipleship." Here are a few of their conclusions:

- **Only 2 in 10 Christians** are involved in some sort of discipleship activity (Sunday School, fellowship group, study group, mentor, etc.).
- The top **three barriers to Christian growth**, for practicing Christians:
 - ...Busyness of life (23%)
 - ...Will require hard work (16%)
 - ...Friends are not interested in spiritual things (11%)
- **How** do Christians want to be **discipled**?
 - ...on my own (37%)
 - ...With a group (25%)
 - ...Group + one-on-one (21%)
 - ...One-on-one (16%)

What discipleship steps are you taking in 2016?

(For more information on this study, go to www.barna.org ("New Research on the State of Discipleship") or request an abbreviated copy from us at dcentercny60@gmail.com.)

Christian Love

S A C R I F I C I A L U P L D F M A
S C B P H T D H S K N N K S O T O N
G K O J E E A T I F V S J E K V J L
P L A M V R C H A Y H E E P E U E S
T J A O M E S I M F K L L O T B D R
Y S T A T A L E W E B F T H Z J V O
H E A O F I N G V A R I E E M S Y S
D W R O N W L D S E M S W E X I E S
A P N G B Z L N N D R H I K C N K W
A G S M X C E G Y S H E A R E C L T
Y G N B D P I P Q U O T S W C E C O
Z X L I S E L P I C S I D T N R A D
W F T I V D A G A P E V L K E E A A
G S D E U I P A T I E N T I I X R S
I N N O E W G N B U S C A N D V B U
I V R S T S U R T A C Q G D E K Z G
Y P U V R M M R O L M T I K B B A Z
I X W O U J D V P F C R C J O H X Q

**AGAPE
COMMAND
DEVOTED
DISCIPLES
FORGIVING
HOPES**

**INDISPENSABLE
KIND
LOVE
OBEDIENCE
PATIENT
PERSEVERES**

**PROTECTS
SACRIFICIAL
SINCERE
TRUSTS
UNFAILING
UNSELFISH**

These words are also in this word search, as something that love does not do:

BOAST

ENVY

PROUD