

THE AIM OF OUR CHARGE IS LOVE

YEAR: UNITE / FOCUS: I AM CALLED
SERIES: GOD IS THE GIFT GIVER - I AM GIFTED

BIG TRUTH: THE AIM OF OUR CHARGE IS LOVE

2 Corinthians 5:14-15; 1 John 4:11; John 13:34-35; Romans 12:10; 1 Peter 1:22

BIBLE VERSE: 1 TIMOTHY 1:5

“The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”

BIG IDEAS

- God’s children are known by their love.
- God’s love is not like the world’s love.
- Godly love uses spiritual gifts effectively.

BIBLE PASSAGE: MATTHEW 22:34-40; ROMANS 13:8-14; 1 CORINTHIANS 13

UNITE - I AM CALLED

The Unite Year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are given a spirit of adoption as sons (Romans 8:15-16), are made a child of God, and we are also saved into a family- the Church. The Unite Year explores how we are to live as a part of a family, and to live in light of our calling as servants and disciples of Christ. We use our gifts to build up the church as we pursue unity, humility, and gentleness with our brothers and sisters in Christ (Ephesians 4:1-2).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- Every good gift comes from the Father.
- They have been specifically and uniquely gifted to bring God glory.
- Spiritual gifts are given for the edification of the body of Christ.



Every student should feel...

- Thankful for the various gifts God has given their church family.
- Convicted of the ways they bear the fruit of the flesh.
- Secure in their standing as God’s children through the Holy Spirit



Every student should strive to...

- Pursue unity with other members of their church family.
- Use their gifts for the good of God’s people.
- Practice regular repentance and obedience.



Every student should want...

- To be known for loving others like Jesus loves.
- To learn more about their spiritual gifts and the gifts of others.
- To both suffer and rejoice with God’s people

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week’s Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.

BIBLE VERSE: 1 TIMOTHY 1:5

“The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”

A believer’s life is marked by love.

“The aim of our charge is love...”

- God is love and draws us to Himself in love. We know what love is because He first loves us. Our life should reveal that we have been marked by His love. This means that all that we do should be done in love.
- As we seek to be like Christ and to obey Him, we should do so out of love for Him and others. Our love should grow each day. As we serve Him, we should do so out of love. As we serve others, we should do so out of love. Whatever we do each day, we should do so in a loving way because this is how God interacts with us.

A believer’s love is from a pure heart and a clear conscience.

“The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience...”

- When we become believers, we are made into new creations. Our sinful hearts are made new and we are no longer enslaved to our sin natures. This means that we are set free to love with the love of God.
- God’s love is perfect and right. When we love like God, we love from a heart that has been made pure by the blood of Jesus and a conscience that has been made clear because of the righteous life of Christ. This righteousness is applied to us at our moment of salvation and we are no longer seen as sinners in the eyes of God. We can love like God because we belong to God.

A believer’s love is based on a sincere faith.

“The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”

- A saving faith is one that is real and true because it is based in a trust and belief in Jesus and His atoning work on the cross. Having a sincere faith in Jesus is one that goes beyond just believing He exists. It is more than believing in God.
- This sincere faith is one that transforms our lives. It is a belief that we are indeed sinners and in need of salvation. It is a faith that makes us new people and leads us to live differently. Because of this faith, our love is not like the world’s love. Instead, it is radical and sacrificial.

BIG IDEA #1: GOD'S CHILDREN ARE KNOWN BY THEIR LOVE.¹**[THIS]**

In Matthew 22:37-38, Jesus teaches how God's people should love Him. This is known as the great and first commandment. God's people are to love Him with all of their heart, mind, and soul. This, essentially, means that God's people are to love Him with everything they have, and in every way possible. It is a complete and full love. Loving God with your all involves your whole heart. This means nothing else is more valued or treasured than God. Loving God with your all means with all your soul. This means everything in you desires and loves God. Lastly, loving God with our all means with our minds. Our minds encompass our thoughts and when we love God with these, they belong to God. They center on God. They are pleasing to God. Being marked by this type of love means that we are known as people who love God. No one should question or be surprised that we love God.

[THEREFORE]**Read Matthew 22:37-38. What does it look like for you to practically love God with your all?**

In these verses, Jesus teaches what it takes to please God. A life that pleases God is a life lived loving Him with our entire being. This means that everything in our lives centers around God and bringing Him glory. Our decisions are about God's glory. Our thoughts bring God glory. Our lives bring Him glory. All that we do brings Him glory.

How is the world's idea of love different from God's command to love Him above all else?

Galatians 5:20 and Mark 7:21-23 discuss the works of the flesh. These are the things that the world celebrates and that our sinful heart desires. The world tells us to love ourselves and to do what pleases us, and that leads us towards these works of the flesh. These things are contrary to loving God.

[THIS]

To be known by our love, God's people must love their neighbors. In Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus teaches just what that looks like. It's not enough to say we love our neighbor. We must love our neighbors as ourselves. This is a harder truth to live out than just loving someone. The world says that we should love others, but it doesn't say to love others as we love ourselves. It doesn't say to love others sacrificially. Jesus taught that we must put others before ourselves and follow His example of loving others. Our neighbors are all people, not just the people next door to us. The people we live with and interact with are our neighbors. To love them well, we must love them as if they are us. We must treat them like we want to be treated. We help them and serve them and seek to live with them as Jesus lived with people while on earth.

[THEREFORE]**What are some thoughts or attitudes that stand in your way of loving your neighbors as yourself?**

Leviticus 19:18 and Luke 6:27 both speak of difficult things when it comes to loving others. It can be hard not to bear a grudge against someone and it is hard to love people whom we consider our enemies. We are commanded to love these people and not to hold grudges. Sometimes these attitudes and thoughts can stand in the way of our loving our neighbors as ourselves.

1. Matthew 22:37: A believer's life is about loving God completely.

BIG IDEA #2: GOD'S LOVE IS NOT LIKE THE WORLD'S LOVE.²**[THIS]**

1 Corinthians 13 explains what God's love is like. His love is not like the world's love. His love is selfless and sacrificial. He loves without requiring a person to earn it. God's love is patient and kind. He gives of Himself and expects nothing in return. This is selfless love, and this is how we are to love others. Our lives should be marked by this type of love. We should be known by our love for others and the way we give to others sacrificially. Our lives should reveal that we love God and because of Him, we love others with no expectation in return. This type of love is not how the world loves. It is the opposite of the world's love, which is self-serving and self-focused. God shows us a better way and reveals to us how we should love Him and others.

[THEREFORE]

Describe how you have experienced selfless love from other believers. How has this impacted your spiritual journey?

Proverbs 27:17 shows us that believers can lovingly help one another grow in their spiritual knowledge. As we speak into each other's lives, we can spur one another on to live for Christ. 1 Peter 4:8 also reminds us of the importance of loving one another as God's children. Throughout Scripture, God's people are commanded to love one another because of the impact it has on our spiritual walks.

What is your greatest challenge to loving selflessly?

Proverbs 3:7 and Romans 12:3 show us the importance of a right view of ourselves. The greatest challenge we might have to loving selflessly is ourselves. When we think of ourselves more than we think of others or we think wrongly of ourselves, we won't love others sacrificially. Instead, we'll love them selfishly.

[THIS]

God's love is not like the world's love because of the way God parents His children. God lovingly corrects and disciplines His children. He calls them to Himself by shepherding them and correcting them. His Spirit convicts them of their sin and opens their eyes to the ways they are not pleasing Him. This is God's love for them. He could leave them in their sin, but instead, He loves them and guides them. God also leads His people through trials and storms to increase their faith. He doesn't make their lives easy as a way of showing His love for them. He gives them something greater. If we are to love like God loves, then we must be willing to correct fellow believers, even though that is painful. We must be willing to walk with them through difficult seasons and to point out the sin that they are walking in. This is Godly love.

[THEREFORE]

What keeps you from correcting other believers when you see them in sin?

Matthew 7:1-5 is one of the reasons we often fail to correct other believers who are in sin. We feel we do not have the right to correct anyone else. Yet, we are called to help one another on our spiritual journeys. Galatians 1:6 and 2 Thessalonians 3:6 teach us that we should reprove and correct others gently. When we have a right view of ourselves and keep our own hearts in check, we can correct others.

2. 1 Corinthians 13: God's love is perfect and complete. His love is not like man's sinful love.

BIG IDEA #3: GODLY LOVE USES SPIRITUAL GIFTS EFFECTIVELY.³**[THIS]**

Romans 13:8-14 instructs us on how to live for God. Loving like God loves means living daily for Him. When we live daily for God, we obey His Word and seek to be holy as He is holy. Part of obeying God's Word is using our spiritual gifts. When we use our spiritual gifts, we are living as and being the person God has called us to be. We are bearing the fruit of His Spirit and bringing Him glory. Using our gifts is a huge part of how we love others. Because God's people are gathered as His body, our gifts are essential to that body working properly. As a believer, if we do not use our gifts, we are not loving the body of Christ well. If we do not participate in the local church because we are choosing instead to occupy ourselves with the things of the world, then we are not helping the body fulfill its God-given purpose.

[THEREFORE]**Why is there a connection between spiritual gifts and loving one another?**

Hebrews 10:24-25 tells us as believers to encourage one another to do good works. Part of the way we do this is by using our spiritual gifts. When we use our spiritual gifts to help other believers, we do so out of love. This is a way that love is connected to the use of our gifts.

[THIS]

If we desire to love like God does, we will use our gifts effectively. Using our gifts effectively means being faithful to the body of Christ. We will not use our gifts only when it's convenient for us. We will use them because we love God and we love His body. We will commit our lives to serving Him and others, especially His body. We cannot really use our gifts apart from the body of Christ; therefore, if we are unfaithful to His body, we won't use our gifts effectively and we will not love like God loves. God loves His people and He loves them by equipping them and stirring them up for good works. He calls us to do the same with our spiritual gifts. When we really and truly love God, we will do the same. We will want to see God's kingdom furthered. We will gladly give up the things of the world in order to use our gifts within the body to further His kingdom.

[THEREFORE]**Why is faithfulness to the body of Christ connected to effective use of your spiritual gifts?**

1 Corinthians 14:26 and 1 Peter 2:9 teach us the importance of the body gathering together. When the body gathers, we encourage one another. Using our spiritual gifts works to encourage one another. If we aren't faithful to be with the body, we can't use our gifts and encourage one another!

How can you practice using your spiritual gifts effectively in the local body?

Hebrews 12:1 reminds us of the faithful believers who have gone before us and the importance of setting aside the things that hold us back from serving the Lord. As we do this, we can use our gifts for the Lord effectively and serve His body faithfully out of love for Him and others.

3. 2 Timothy 1:6-7: Our spiritual gifts are to be used in love.