

# Wake Union Baptist Church Sunday School Devotion



**Opening Prayer**

*Dear Heavenly Father,*

*Thank you for helping us through another week and for another opportunity to consider your Holy Word. We ask for knowledge and understanding that would increase our faith and guide us on your path. Please help those that are sick to get better and give comfort to those that are grieving. We pray that more people would soon be able to safely return to church. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

**Welcome and Announcements**

We would love to see you at our 11:00 am worship service.

Happy Birthday to our folks with birthdays in March: Carolyn Fowler, Marti Gibson, Anna Heustis, Samuel Heustis, Debora McCloud, Keiko Nakamoto, and Joyce Wall. If your birthday isn't noted on the given month, please reach out to Margaret Lloyd so she can update our list.

If you would like some collards, please give me a call.

**Memory Verses**

<sup>34</sup>*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.* <sup>35</sup>*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.* **John 13:34-35**

There are a lot of scriptures about love, for God is love (1 John 4:16). The passages selected for today center on our love for one another, “*especially unto them who are of the household of faith*” (Galatians 6:10).

**Brotherly Love**

<sup>9</sup>*Let love be without dissimulation (pretend, hypocrisy). Abhor (Hate, detest) that which is evil; cleave (cling, be cemented) to that which is good.* <sup>10</sup>*Be kindly affectioned (devoted to) one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another;* **Romans 12:9-10**

These verses implore us to practice real, sincere love that is in no way feigned. This requires effort and commitment on our part as we strive to live out the faith we profess. May we practice God's way of loving others and putting their needs ahead of our own to the praise of our Lord.

<sup>14</sup>*We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death (is still dead).* <sup>15</sup>*Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.* <sup>16</sup>*Hereby perceive (know) we the love of God, because he (Jesus) laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.* <sup>17</sup>*But whoso hath this world's good (wealth, material possessions), and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels (heart) of compassion from (refuses to help) him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?* <sup>18</sup>*My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed (action) and in truth.* **1 John 3:14-18**

Jesus gave his life for ours. We pass from death into life when we accept Him as our Savior (John 3:36). Love is then evidence of our redemption. Real love goes beyond just feelings. We show it through selfless, sacrificial actions done for others; especially for those in need.

*<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. <sup>8</sup>He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation (atoning sacrifice) for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth (abides, lives) in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>Hereby know we that we dwell (abide) in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. <sup>17</sup>Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness (confidence) in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment (involves punishment). He that feareth (dreads the day of judgment) is not made perfect in love. <sup>19</sup>We love him, because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? <sup>21</sup>And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also. **1 John 4:7-21***

God is the source of our love, Jesus our example of how we are to live it, and the Holy Spirit provides the necessary wisdom and strength needed to put it into unselfish action. Love is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22) and God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love (2 Timothy 1:7). God loved us so much that he gave his only Son, a sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins and the gift of our salvation. The key to our practicing such sacrificial love is abiding in Jesus and relying on the power of the Holy Spirit. May we faithfully love the people that God brings into our lives to love, that they might see Jesus through our actions.

### **Fervent Love as Also In Christ Jesus**

*<sup>22</sup>Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned (genuine, sincere) love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently (deep, true, fervent love from a pure heart): **1 Peter 1:22***

We are purified and sanctified through obedience to the truth of God's word (John 17:17), and guided by the Spirit to love. God's love and forgiveness frees and empowers us to love others with a pure and sincere heart. It is our duty as Christians to demonstrate such ardent love.

*<sup>1</sup>If there be therefore any consolation (encouragement) in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies (tenderness and compassion), <sup>2</sup>Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory (selfish ambition or vain conceit); but in lowliness of mind (humility) let each esteem other better (more important) than themselves. <sup>4</sup>Look not*

*every man on his own things (interests), but every man also on the things of others.* <sup>5</sup>*Let this mind (attitude) be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:* **Philippians 2:1-5**

When we focus only on our own interests, discord may eventually appear. Only when we with a humble heart center our lives on the love of Jesus and care for the problems of others as if they were our own, can we safeguard unity and peace within diversity. May we emulate Jesus, who “*made himself of no reputation*”, “*took upon him the form of a servant*”, and “*humbled himself*” to “*even the death of the cross*” (Philippians 2:6-11).

<sup>12</sup>*Put on therefore, as the elect (chosen people) of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies (compassion), kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;* <sup>13</sup>*Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.* <sup>14</sup>*And above all these things put on charity (love), which is the bond of perfectness.* **Colossians 3:12-14**

Here Paul gives us some critical advice for how we are to live, exhorting us to mutual love and compassion. May our lives be characterized by the attributes listed here, and above or encompassing all these may the bond of brotherly love be most evident as we represent Christ to the world.

### **Conclusion**

<sup>1</sup>*Let brotherly love continue.* **Hebrews 13:1**

Let us continue to show love to others even as Jesus loves us, for the spirit of Christianity is a spirit of love.

<sup>24</sup>*And let us consider one another to provoke unto (encourage or spur one another on to) love and to good works (deeds):* **Hebrews 10:24**

And let us continually encourage one another in the love of Christ, as we worship and serve God together.

### **Closing Prayer**

*Dear Heavenly Father,*

*Thank you for loving us and helping us each day. Forgive us for when we've failed to love others as we should. Help us to remember the scriptures we've considered today and live by them. Strengthen and guide us to live according to your will and for your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.*