



Lesson 12

August 22, 2021

Perfect Love

1 John 4:2-3, 13-17; 5:4-5

The Apostle John in today's Bible lesson wants us to display the love of God in our lives. Della understood this concept but when she was in a situation to respond to the challenge to love others with Christlike love, she needed a reminder.

Stevie offered to drive Della home after work. Della accepted. On the way home, Stevie was driving a little too fast. Della became worried, asking Stevie to slow it down. However, Stevie said, "I got this!" Stevie went down an unfamiliar road too fast, lost control and his vehicle, hit a railing, and became jammed against a light pole. Della and Stevie waited for the first responders to arrive. Della could open her door, but she could not move her legs. Both Della and Stevie were freed from the car by the first responders, but Della never walked again.

Della lost her joyful spirit and vowed to never speak to Stevie again. Della was afraid that if she continued as Stevie's friend, he would not appreciate the severity of what happened to her. Stevie has asked for forgiveness, however, Della refused to forgive. Della's pastor reminded her of the duty for Christians to love others with Christlike love and that perfect love destroys fear. The pastor read 1 John 4:7, where Christians are instructed to love one another because God is love. He encouraged Della to reflect on the various expressions of God's love in her life and allow God's love to work in her heart.

After the pastor's visit and prayer, Della no longer worried about the outcome of forgiving and loving Stevie with the love of God. Della forgave Stevie and she asked Stevie to forgive her. Della is home now. Stevie has visited Della every weekend since she was discharged. He runs errands, cooks, and cleans for Della. Della got her joy back by being a faithful and loving witness of God's love!

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss the biblical meaning of love.
2. What does our willingness (or unwillingness) to make loving sacrifices in our relationships, say about our own relationship with God?
3. Does it really matter that Christians love others? Explain.