

EPOC: Love the Bond of Perfection.

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2 Timothy 2:15 (AMP) Study *and* be eager *and* do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing *and* accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.

Instructions:

1. Print out the study guide.
2. Watch the videos at www.epocfoundation.org under “Moving On To Perfection” or visit EPOC Foundation YouTube channel (Love – The Bond of Perfection)).
3. Look up each scripture (NKJV) and fill in the blanks and answer each question in the study guide. Some answers are found only in the videos. The more you put into your studying the more you will get out of it.
4. Share what you learn with at least three other people.
5. Send you questions or feedback to info@epocfoundation.org

Key EPOC Foundational Scriptures:

Luke 6:46 "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?" ⁴⁷ Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and _____, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸ He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the _____ on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. ⁴⁹ But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth _____ a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be _____, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of **the elementary principles of Christ (EPOC)**, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the _____ of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ² of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

Amplified: Hebrews 6:1 Therefore let us go on and get past the elementary stage in the teachings *and* doctrine of Christ, _____ toward the completeness *and* perfection that belong to _____.

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Bonus Scripture: 1 Peter 2:2 as newborn babes, desire the pure _____ of the _____, that you may _____ thereby,

Colossians 3:12 Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, _____ tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. ¹⁴ But _____ these things put on love, which is the _____ of perfection.

Assignment: Take a moment and define your definition of love:

JESUS'S COMMAND OF LOVE:

Matthew 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, '*You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.*' ⁴⁴ But _____, love your _____, _____ those who curse you, do _____ to those who hate you, and _____ for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be _____ of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you _____ those who love you, what _____ have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do so? ⁴⁸ Therefore you shall be _____, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Question: Do you have any enemies you need to forgive, pray, and bless?

Matthew 22:36 "Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "'*You shall _____ the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*' ³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹ And *the* second *is* like it: '*You shall _____ your neighbor as yourself.*' ⁴⁰ On these two _____ hang all the Law and the Prophets."

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Matthew 24:12 And because _____ will abound, the love of many will grow _____.

Define: Lawlessness -

Luke 7:40 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it." ⁴¹ "There was a certain creditor who had two _____. One owed _____ denarii, and the other _____. ⁴² And when they had nothing with which to repay, he _____ them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will _____ him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered and said, "I suppose the *one* whom _____." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." ⁴⁴ Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped *them* with the hair of her head. ⁴⁵ You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. ⁴⁷ Therefore I say to you, her _____, *which are* _____, are _____, for she loved much. But to whom _____ is forgiven, *the same* loves _____."

Reflection: Stop and reflect on much you have sinned against the Lord and how much He has freely forgiven you. Reflect upon how Jesus Christ paid your sin debt.

Luke 16:13 No servant can _____ two masters; for either he will hate the one and _____ the other, or else he will be _____ to the one and despise the other. You _____ serve God and mammon."

Evaluation: Do you work for money or for the Lord?

Evaluation: Do you trust in and rely upon money more than God?

Question: Do you agree with the statement "You cannot serve God and mammon"? Explain your belief?

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John 3:16 For God so _____ the world that He _____ His only begotten _____, that whoever _____ in _____ should not _____ but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to _____ the world, but that the world through Him might be _____.

John 5:36 But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish--the very works that I do--bear witness of Me, that the Father has _____ Me. ³⁷ And the Father Himself, who _____ Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. ³⁸ But you do not have His _____ abiding in you, because whom He _____, Him you do not _____.
³⁹ You search the _____, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which _____ of Me. ⁴⁰ But you are not willing to _____ to Me that you may have life. ⁴¹ I do not receive honor from men. ⁴² But I know you, that you do not have the _____ of God in you. ⁴³ I have come in My Father's name, and you do not _____ Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.

Reflection: A denomination was not wounded for our transgressions, a religion was not crucified on the cross for our sins, our church, nor any other church, did not die and rise from the dead, a man made theology did not ascend on high and sit down at the right hand of God the Father and a pet doctrine or religious ritual is not coming back to rule and reign on the earth. A living being, a person, the LORD JESUS CHRIST did and is coming soon.

John 8:38 I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your _____.³⁹ They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our _____." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's _____, you would do the _____ of Abraham. ⁴⁰ But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. ⁴¹ You do the deeds of your _____.⁴² Then they said to Him, "We were not _____ of fornication; we have one Father--_____." ⁴² Jesus said to them, "If God were your _____, you would _____ Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He _____ Me. ⁴³ Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My _____.

Question: Is your salvation based upon a religious affiliation or upon you being born again? Explain your answer:

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John 13:34 A _____ commandment I give to _____, that you _____ one another; as I have love _____, that you also _____ one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have _____ for one another."

John 14:15 "If you _____ Me, keep My commandments."

John 14:21 He who has My commandments and _____ them, it is he who _____ Me. And he who _____ Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?" ²³ Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone _____ Me, he will keep My _____; and My Father will _____ him, and We will come to him and make Our _____ with him. ²⁴ He who does _____ love Me does _____ keep My words; and the _____ which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who _____ Me.

Question: How does God the Father view and determine if we love His Son?

Question: How can our good intentions be a hinderance to loving Jesus?

John 15:9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved _____; _____ in My love. ¹⁰ If you _____ My commandments, you will _____ in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be _____. ¹² This is My _____, that you _____ one another as I have _____ you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

Question: How are we to abide in the love of Jesus?

Evaluation: Do you agree with John 15:13? Is there a greater act of love?

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John 15:17 These things I _____ you, that you _____ one another.

Question: How do you feel about having to leave your life under the commands of Jesus?

Evaluation: How do you practice hospitality to get to know your brothers and sister in Christ?

John 21:15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son of Jonah*, do you _____ Me _____ than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

Evaluation: Is there anything you love more than Jesus? What are you **not** will to walk away from for Him?

THE APOSTLE PETER:

1 Peter 1:6 In this you greatly _____, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your _____, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ _____
_____. Though now you do not _____ *Him*, yet _____, you rejoice with _____ inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your _____ --the _____ of *your* souls.

Bonus Scripture: John 20:28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my _____!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have _____ Me, you have believed. _____ *are* those who have not _____ and *yet* have _____."

1 Peter 1:20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you ²¹ who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the _____ and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. ²² Since you have purified your souls in _____ the truth through the _____ in sincere love of

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the brethren, _____ with a pure heart, ²³ having been _____, not of corruptible _____ but incorruptible, through the _____ of God which lives and abides forever,

Evaluation: Have you been born again?

Question: Do you understand that by being born again you have a new divine nature that empowers you to love, yes, even your enemies?

1 Peter 3:8 _____ *be* of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, *be* tenderhearted, *be* courteous; ⁹ not returning _____ for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary _____, knowing that you were _____ to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

1 Peter 4:8 And _____ have _____ love for one another, for *"love will cover a multitude of sins."*

2 Peter 1:5 But also for this very reason, giving all _____, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness _____. ⁸ For _____ these things are yours and _____, *you will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Explain: How can someone have the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and be barren and or unfruitful?

THE APOSTLE JOHN:

1 John 2:3 Now _____, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ He who says, "I _____ Him," and does _____ keep His commandments, is a _____, and the truth is _____ in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is _____ in him. By this we _____ that we are in Him. ⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to _____ just as He walked.

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Explain: How does the Scriptures define if we “know Him”?

Question: How does God define a person who loves Him?

Reflection: Do you know anyone that says, “I know Him” and does not keep His commandments:

1 John 2:15 Do not _____ the world or the _____ in the world. If anyone _____ the world, the _____ of the Father is _____ in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is _____ of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the _____ of God abides forever.

Reflection: Would your friends or family say you love the things of this world more than the Father?

1 John 3:11 For this is the message that you heard from the _____, that we should _____ one another,

1 John 3:23 And this is His commandment: that we should _____ on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and _____ one another, as He gave us _____.

1 John 3:10 In this the _____ of God and the _____ of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not _____ righteousness is _____ of God, nor *is* he who does not _____ his brother. ¹¹ For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should _____ one another, ¹² not as Cain *who* was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³ Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life, because we _____ the brethren. He who does _____ love *his* brother abides in _____. ¹⁵ Whoever _____ his brother is a _____, and you know that no _____ has eternal life abiding in him.

¹⁶ By this we _____, because He _____ His life for _____. And we

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also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. ¹⁷ But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in _____, and shuts up his _____ from him, how does the _____ of God abide in him? ¹⁸ My little children, let us not _____ in word or in tongue, but in _____ and in truth.

1 John 4:7 Beloved, _____ one another, for _____ is of God; and everyone who loves is _____ God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love _____ God, for God is love. ⁹ In this the _____ of God was manifested toward us, that God has _____ His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is _____, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and _____ His Son *to be* the propitiation for _____. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to _____ one another. ¹² No one has _____ God at any time. If we _____ one another, God _____ in us, and His love has been _____ in us. ¹³ By this we _____ that we _____ in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has _____ the Son *as* Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever _____ that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ And we have known and _____ the _____ that God has for us. God is love, and he who _____ in love abides in God, and God in him. ¹⁷ Love has been _____ among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but _____ love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has _____ been made _____ in love. ¹⁹ _____ ²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a _____; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹ And this _____ we have from _____: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also.

Reflect and Review: What spoke to you the most from the above passage?

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1 John 5:1 Whoever _____ that Jesus is the Christ is _____ of God, and everyone who _____ Him who begot also _____ him who is begotten of Him. ² By this we know that we love the _____ of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. ³ For _____ of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

2 John 1:5 And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the _____: that we love one another. ⁶ This is _____, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.

Assignment: Review all the above passages from 1st and 2nd John:

How do these passages describe someone who loves God?

How does these passages describe a person who does not love God?

THE APOSTLE PAUL:

Philippians 3:12 Not that I have already attained, or am already _____; but I _____ on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

Review: Amplified: Hebrews 6:1 Therefore let us go on and get past the elementary stage in the teachings *and* doctrine of Christ, _____ toward the completeness *and* perfection that belong to _____.

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Romans 13:8 Owe no one anything _____ to _____ one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, "*You shall not commit adultery,*" "*You shall not murder,*" "*You shall not steal,*" "*You shall not bear false witness,*" "*You shall not covet,*" and if *there is* any other commandment, are *all* summed up in this saying, namely, "*You shall _____ your neighbor as yourself.*" ¹⁰ _____ does no harm to a neighbor; therefore _____ is the fulfillment of the law.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own _____ toward us, in that while we were still _____, Christ died for us.

Galatians 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but _____.

1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not _____, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ² And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not _____, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not _____, it profits me nothing. ⁴ Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does _____ envy; love does _____ parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does _____ behave rudely, does _____ seek its own, is _____ provoked, thinks _____ evil; ⁶ does _____ rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never _____. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away.

LOVE: Suffers long, forbears, is patient with, and performs acts of kindness; is not jealous or envious; does no boast or brag, **LOVE** is not conceited, puffed up or put on airs, **LOVE** does not act indecently or dishonorably; **LOVE** does not seek or wish for its own way; **LOVE** is not easily provoked or stirred up; **LOVE** keeps no record of others' *evil deeds*; **LOVE** does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. **LOVE** resists all attempts against it and endures all onslaughts; **LOVE** never loses faith and is ever ready to believe the best of every person, **LOVE** is always hopeful and endures everything without weakening; **LOVE** never falls away or comes to an end.

-- I Corinthians 13:4-8a RT

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Ephesians 5:1 Therefore be _____ of God as dear _____.

² And walk in _____, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

ASSIGNMENTS:

REVIEW: Go back and review all your notes and list below the most important things you've learned as a result of completing this study:

1.

2.

3.

ACTION: What actions are you going to take as a result from what you have learned?

1.

2.

3.

SHARE: List the names of three people you will share what you learned and the action steps you are going to be taking.

1.

2.

3.

READ: Get a paperback New Testament that does not have any commentary, start in Matthew and read through it as fast as you can (Don't take more than a month). Carry it with you everywhere you go so you can read it when you have an opportunity. Don't worry about the things you don't understand, just read it cover to cover as quickly as you can.