

**Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church**  
**2080 West Grand Blvd.**  
**Detroit, Michigan 48208**  
**Nathan Johnson, D.D., Senior Pastor**

**Lesson 2: *Loving Others Like God Loves You*<sup>1</sup>**

**Goal:**            *Build Authentic Relationships by Reestablishing the Art of “One Anothering.”*

**Objective:**    *Provide Scriptural support for loving others like God loves you.*

**Introduction:**

Do you see people as a faceless group rather than individuals with a capacity and need to love and be loved? This month’s lesson should help you explore the depths of your love for others by drawing from Scripture and your experiences with God to grow to *love others as He loves you*. God is love! He established the church through His Son as the body of believers reflecting His image and likeness by loving others. Jesus tells us that our love for one another reveals a distinguishing characteristic of discipleship and proof that we are part of His family. Living in God’s love affords us the opportunity to enjoy a greater fullness and purpose for our lives.

Jesus gave His disciples a new command, “*Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another*”

*(John 13:34-35 NLT).*

*“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”*

*(1 John 4:7, 8 KJV)*

As we engage further in the concept of “one anothering” we understand that God demonstrated His love for all! Love fulfills God’s purpose and establishes an atmosphere for people to want to know Him! Today many people in our church family need to experience God’s love for themselves and He has empowered us to extend that love to others. We must trust God’s purpose for us to open our hearts to love and receive love in obedience to His plan for our lives. Being given the commandment to love one another begins with one person at a time. We cannot just focus on ourselves but on the needs of others around us. Once we feel secure and confident of God’s unconditional love for us this gives us freedom to live the one anothering life. This means we must extend ourselves to reach out to others within the church, particularly new members so that all members can feel connected to the body of Christ. As we purposefully reach out to them with words of friendliness, kindness, and inquiries about their well-being, to include acts of service, we are expressing the kind of love that God would expect of us. As His ambassadors we are commissioned as His change agents to magnify His presence through our love for others in a dark, cold world.

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<sup>1</sup> Jacobsen, W., & Jacobsen, C. *Authentic Relationships: Discover the lost art of “one anothering”*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing Group, (2003). Print.

*“Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he is in us, because he hath given us his Spirit.” (1 John 4:11-13 KJV)*

**Discussion Point #1:**

***How did Jesus express the magnitude of God’s love for us and others?***

Throughout Scripture love is emphasized as an exclusive spiritual attribute that enables our relationship with God to manifest His will for everyone to experience His love. Jesus’ love was sacrificial at all points even to the giving of His life for us.

Jesus prayed, *“And I have declared unto you them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.” (John 17:26 KJV)*

**Discussion Point #2**

***How does the world minimize our obedience to God’s command for us to love one another?***

Jesus modeled and emphasized that our obedience demonstrates our love for God. The world challenges our commitment and demonstration of obedience to God’s commands, which undermines the depth of our relationship with God. We must be careful to keep God’s way of love before us lest we find ourselves adopting the ways of the world.

*“As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love: even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.” (John 15:9-11)*

**Discussion Point #3**

***In what ways would you like to see God’s love demonstrated for you? Ask Him to show you His love in that way.<sup>2</sup>***

Have you been inspired by unexpected acts of kindness or *love*? How did you feel and how do you feel about passing on an unexpected expression of love to others?

*“If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shall love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well.” James 2:8*

**Biblical Exercise:**

***After prayer for God to strengthen you, identify two to three people in our church family to extend the love you have experienced through your relationship with God.***

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<sup>2</sup> Jacobsen, W., & Jacobsen, C. *Authentic Relationships: Discover the lost art of “one anothering”*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing Group, (2003). p. 33

## Monthly Biblical Exercises

<b>Month</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Monthly Biblical Exercise</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>2011</b>	<i>Introduction to Authentic Relationships</i>
<b>November</b>	<b>2011</b>	<i>Loving Others Like God Loves You</i>