

## **No. 72      Love Identifies the True Christian Congregation**

PLEASE NOTE: Encourage newly interested ones to associate with the true Christian congregation, and help them not to stumble at the human imperfections they may see. If you wish, you may use the provided artwork to illustrate the points indicated

### **LOVE IDENTIFIES JESUS' TRUE FOLLOWERS (4 min.)**

Around the world, many sincere people search for the true religion

Often, they are disappointed by religions that do not teach or practice genuine love (Mt 7:15)

Jesus said that his true followers would be identified by their love [Read John 13:34, 35]

True Christians are no longer identified by miraculous gifts of the spirit, but by unfailing love (1Co 12:31; 13:8; c/ 308 ¶21)

### **WHERE CAN GENUINE LOVE BE FOUND TODAY? (8 min.)**

Jehovah's Witnesses show genuine love to one another [Read Romans 12:10] [Image 1]

They work hard not to show partiality based on race, ethnicity, age, level of education, or financial status

They treat one another kindly and assist one another when in need (Ga 6:10)

[Give examples, such as assisting elderly and infirm ones or providing disaster relief]

As a result, they enjoy unity and peace (Eph 4:3)

They also show love to non-Witnesses

They impartially invite all to learn about Jehovah (Isa 2:2, 3; Ac 10:34, 35; w19.09 31 ¶17)

They do not participate in violence or war (Isa 2:4; w14 9/15 7-8 ¶1-4)

### **SHOULD YOU EXPECT PERFECTION AMONG JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES? (6 min.)**

All of Jehovah's Witnesses are imperfect, so they cannot show love perfectly (Ro 3:23)

Jehovah does not require perfection from imperfect people, and neither should we (Ps 130:3)

The apostles and other early Christians were imperfect

Peter at one time showed partiality (Ga 2:11-14)

Paul and Barnabas had a serious disagreement (Ac 15:36-41)

Today, as in the past, God continues to use imperfect people who humbly correct their mistakes and who work to overcome their weaknesses

### **SHOW LOVE BY BEING FORGIVING (9 min.)**

Rather than take offense at the imperfections of others, we can show love by forgiving freely [Read Colossians 3:13] (w99 10/15 13 ¶8-9) [Image 2]

All of us at times need forgiveness from others (Jas 3:2)

We must forgive others in order to gain Jehovah's forgiveness (Mt 6:14, 15)

Christian love can cover even "a multitude of sins" (1Pe 4:8; Mt 18:21, 22)

Admittedly, it is not always easy to forgive; Jehovah can help you to do so

Ask God in prayer for his holy spirit, which can help you cultivate peace, patience, mildness, and love (Ga 5:22)

Study God's Word and apply its counsel (Eph 4:32; 5:1; w99 10/15 13 ¶7; 14-15 ¶14-15)

### **WORSHIP WITH THOSE WHO SHOW GENUINE LOVE (3 min.)**

How refreshing it is to be among a united group who show genuine love! [Read Colossians 3:14] [Image 3]

We encourage all to worship God with the true Christian congregation and to obey Jesus' command to show genuine love (1Jo 3:23)

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section.

Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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