

Workbook: Lesson Six – Faith and Love

Colossians 1:4 – Faith and Love in Christ

ZChurch Online Bible School

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Lesson Focus:

- Explore the theological weight of faith in Christ Jesus'
- Unpack the movement of Spirit-born love 'into all the saints'
- Distinguish between emotional persuasion and spiritual conviction
- Engage biblical grammar and word placement for richer understanding

Scripture Reading:

Colossians 1:4 (KJV)

"Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints."

Greek Word Study and Syntax

- Faith 'έν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ' – Rootedness and spiritual location in Christ.
- Love 'εις πάντας τοὺς ἁγίους' – Directional movement into the community of saints.
- Syntax: Paul intentionally places 'faith' and 'love' together, connecting what we believe with how we behave.

They carry **precise, rich meanings** that shape theology, interpretation, and application.

Unlike vague English prepositions, Greek ones are **tightly bound** to verbs or nouns.

They can **dramatically shift meaning**, not ornamental but essential.

Understanding them is like switching from a **blurry lens to a sharp one**—layers of meaning come alive.

Why Greek Prepositions Matter

From Blurry to Crystal Clear

blurry



crystal clear



Understanding these prepositions can uncover depth and nuance missed in translation, grounding your study in the original intent of the writer.

It's like switching from a blurry lens to a sharp one—suddenly, layers of meaning come alive.

So, let us give a closer look at the prepositions found in Colossians 1:4. As we learn how the Greek prepositions “ἐν”, and “εἰς”, can unlock the direction, force, or relationship in the text.

Persuasion and Conviction

Persuasion

Comes from the outside in.

It is someone presenting arguments, evidence, or reasoning to convince you.

It appeals mainly to the mind (logic, comparison, advantage).

Persuasion can change someone’s opinion, but it may not last if pressure or influence changes.

Example: A salesman persuades you to buy a product by showing its benefits. However, after the sales pitch, you may end up having “buyer’s remorse.”

Conviction

Comes from the inside out.

It is an inward certainty, often moral or spiritual, that grips you.

It appeals to the heart and conscience.

Conviction shapes character and behavior even when persuasion fades.

Example: A person is convinced that lying is wrong, so they refuse to lie even if persuasion or pressure pushes them to do so.

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Persuasion changes opinions.

Conviction changes lives. ”

The difference simply explained.

Theological Exploration

Faith in Christ is not merely belief—it is **relational union**. Love for the saints is not vague—it is **targeted action** born from that union. Paul affirms a church whose spirituality is not isolated or abstract, but incarnated in love toward others.

Activity 1: Grammar That Grounds

1. Define the Greek prepositions ἐν and εἰς. How does their use change your reading of Colossians 1:4?
2. Paraphrase the verse with these definitions in mind.
3. Compare the verse in three translations (KJV, ESV, Amplified). What differences do you notice in tone and emphasis?

Colossians 1:4 KJVS

[4] Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,

ESV: Colossians 1:4 ESV

[4] since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints,

Colossians 1:4 AMP

[4] for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus [how you lean on Him with absolute confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness], and of the [unselfish] love which you have for all the saints (God's people);

Activity 2: Personal Faith and Love Diagnostic

- Is your faith placed 'in Christ' or merely in principles about Christ?
- Does your love move actively into the lives of others, or does it stop short at sentiment?

Write 2–3 examples of how your faith and love are currently visible in your life.

Reflection Questions

- What does it mean to be heard about for faith and love? Would Paul write this verse about you?
- What kind of community is shaped by people who are truly 'in Christ' and loving 'into' others?
- How does love rooted in conviction differ from love driven by obligation or approval-seeking?

Cross References for Study

- John 15:4 – Abide in me.
- Galatians 5:6 – Faith working through love.
- 1 John 3:14 – Love as evidence of spiritual life.

Final Reflection

Paul's testimony about the Colossians was not doctrinal—it was relational. Faith and love cannot be hidden. To live 'in Christ' is to exude a love that moves beyond emotionalism into sacrificial, Spirit-empowered action.

Personal Prayer

Lord, root me more deeply in You. Let my faith be steady and visible. Let my love move beyond words into action. Teach me to love all the saints, especially the ones hardest to love. May I be known for being anchored in You and poured out for others. Amen.

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3. Strong, James. *The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. Thomas Nelson, 1990.
4. Greek language and theological insights developed in collaboration with AI (ChatGPT) based on original study prompts and ideas by Loretta M. Huggins.
5. All Scriptures are from the King James Version (KJV) unless otherwise indicated.

