

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 1

The Vignette: *Welcome to My World*

Summary: A husband and wife are struggling financially and are surprised by a generous gift from an unexpected source.

1. Identify the immediate difficulties that Clifford and Suzanne are facing.

2. What questionable choices have this couple made over the years that have resulted in hard times?

3. How would you assess this couple's spiritual condition? That is, what spiritual resources do Clifford and Suzanne have to help them through this crisis? Are they Christians?

4. Why do you think Clifford was so taken back when Suzanne immediately apologized for being late?

5. In Suzanne's encounter with "the church lady," what threw Suzanne off-guard the most?

6. During Suzanne's encounter with the deaconess, did the lady at any time give her a tract or present the gospel of Jesus Christ?

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 1

Personal Assessment Questions:

- What lessons have you learned from the “church lady” and her interaction with Suzanne?

- What often must take place before someone is willing to listen to your spiritual advice?

- Recall the last person you met who was facing a personal crisis. In what manner did you respond? How effective were you? What would you change?

The Chapter: “Monkey See, Monkey...Love?” (Love and Its Origins)

1. Prior to reading this chapter, did you consider was the source of love a natural product of human evolution or some outside source? Did you believe love was from a source other than God?

2. Most scientists believe that love is simply a very advanced product of human evolution. What are some of the problems with the assumption that love “evolved”? How does love of any kind fit into Darwin’s concepts of the survival of the species and natural selection?

3. If you accept the theory that love is a product of human evolution, how would you explain Jesus’ command, “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”? (Matt. 5:44)

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 2

The Vignette: *Forever Warm*

Summary: *Forever Warm* presents a snapshot of a relationship between a husband and wife taken through the lens of the husband's memories.

1. Where does this scene take place and what has happened? Who is present at the bedside?

2. There are five "hand encounters" that come into the husband's memories. What are they?

3. What do you think the hand encounters symbolize in this vignette?

4. Home at night, the husband finds himself "truly alone for the first time." What do you think that is like for someone who has been married for many years?

5. How do you think the loss of intimate touch affects someone who has had it most of his or her life?

6. What was the effect of the wife's unconditional demonstration of love toward her husband? Which of the two knew instinctively how to show love?

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 2

7. What do you believe is symbolic of the word “warm”?

Personal Assessment Questions:

- Science has demonstrated that newborn babies have two critical needs to survive: love and touch. Without these, they may die as a result of “failure to thrive.” When it comes to your spouse, your children or your significant other, how are you doing in your “hand encounters”? What can you do to improve your expressions of love?

- Assess your own life and describe it in terms of “hand” and “warm.” Do you feel the “warmth” of being loved? What can you do to increase warmth to your significant relationships?

The Chapter: “It Takes Three to Make One” (Love and Its Beginning)

1. Have you ever attended a Bible study or class, or have you ever heard a sermon preached on the nature of the relationship among the members of the Godhead? If not, why do you think that is?

2. The Bible study group listed a number of characteristics describing the relationship between the members of the Godhead. Can you add any that would come to mind and have a biblical basis?

*Study Guide for
The Love Revelation*

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 3

Personal Inventory Questions:

- Do you believe that he may be observing you and your relationships?
- How would you compare yourself to either of these individuals?
- Are you being tempted in a relationship right now?
- When you are tempted, what do you do about it?
- What can you do to consider the consequences for an act of sexual impropriety such as adultery?
- What is it about you that causes you to put rational thinking and beliefs on hold when you are faced with sexual temptation?

*Study Guide for
The Love Revelation*

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 3

Chapter 3: “A Falling Out of Sorts” (Love and Paradise Lost)

1. This chapter begins with the assumption that the Bible is true. That means that what the Bible says about Adam and Eve and their fall in the Garden of Eden are true. Do you believe that? If not, what would cause you not to believe it?

2. The second paragraph, beginning with the words, “The Bible tells us...” describes the characteristics of the man and the woman at creation. It states they could have an intimate relationship with God without fear. Does that characterize mankind today? If not, why? What would it take to restore mankind to that relationship?

3. What does the text say about the reason God created a man *and* a woman?

4. What was the answer to the question, “Why would God place something in the garden that might jeopardize the unity, the harmony and the wondrous love relationship between God and man, and between the man and the woman?”

5. Comment on the statement, “Biblical love requires freedom to choose.” Do you agree or disagree?

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 4

The Vignette: *God Is the Answer*

Summary: A pastor decides his church needs some changes, and does he make them!

1. Comment on Pastor Jenkins' desire to bring the church "up to speed." Is there anything wrong with that? What are some good intentions as well as risks when attempting to change a church?

2. What do you think were Pastor Jenkins' motives for wanting to move the church forward? (Hint: What was the name of the seminar he attended?)

3. Regarding the people in the church, what were some really good things that happened during the restructuring process?

4. Why do you think the effort to reach the unchurched was so successful on Easter Sunday, but lasting growth failed to materialize?

5. Why do you think some people *really* left the church, and do you think Pastor Jenkins should have been making any changes at all as a result of their leaving?

6. If the size of Pastor Jenkins' church was about 150 to begin with, what do you think was the total cost of renovating the church, including the cost for mailings and other advertising efforts? Do you feel that money could have been spent on something better?

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 4

7. What do you think about Pastor Jenkins' "call" to leave and begin ministry at another church?

8. What do you think was the attitude of some of the new members, those who began with the statement, "My personal.....is none of the church's business"? What was lacking in their attitude toward the church and the kingdom of God? What had they failed to receive from the church?

Chapter 4: "Ice Weasels and Their Kin" (Love and Its Biblical Revelation)

1. Of the various definitions of love listed at the beginning of the chapter, which would do you like the best? Do you know of other definitions you would like to add?

2. Why did the author title the chapter, "Ice Weasels and Their Kin" when the subject is about definitions of love? In other words, what do the "ice weasels" represent?

3. Do you agree with Joseph Fletcher's proposition that "prescriptive principles such as rules or laws, regardless of their source, supernatural or natural, are insufficient to meet every situation in life and to address every contingency"? What is right and what is wrong about that proposition? (Note: If you have never heard of "ethical relativism" or "situation ethics," there are plenty of resources online.)

4. Do you agree or disagree with the statement, "Without absolute truth, love cannot be absolutely defined"?

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 4

5. As you read through the section titled, “Love in the Old Testament—To Love Is to Obey,” why do you suppose loving God is a *command*?

6. According to the chapter, why did God make the laws and commandments for the Israelites? Was he capricious in doing so? What does it mean “to protect the Messianic seed line embedded in the nation (of Israel) through the tribe of Judah”?

7. Do you agree or disagree with the statement, “...the love revealed throughout the Old Testament is parochial”? Why?

8. Do you agree or disagree with the statement, “...those who willingly choose to remain under the Law will always fall short in their ability to love God.” If you agree, why?

9. From the section, “Love in the New Testament,” define the three types of love found in the Greek language. It is important that a Christian understand and be able to explain *agape* love. Can you?

10. What is the key feature about *agape* love?

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 4

11. How do you feel about Jesus' command to "love your enemies"? Does that command seem reasonable? Impossible? (Note: Greater discussion of this command can be found in the yet unpublished Book 3.)
12. Comment on the statements, "Biblical love is based on action more than feeling because, if we waited until we felt love, we might never love at all," and, "We learn to *feel agape* love once we have been obedient to *showing agape* love."
13. Can you summarize the contents of chapter 4?
14. Write what you believe is the main point of the chapter.

Main Point: _____

Personal Assessment Questions:

- How does the theme of love connect with the actions of Pastor Jenkins in "God Is the Answer"?

- Have you ever been part of a church that went through a "restructuring"? If so, did it work or not? If it did, what made it work? If not, what made it fail?

*Study Guide for
The Love Revelation*

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 4

- When you think about biblical love, do you think in terms of a feeling or in terms of an action?

- How do you show love to God? Do you show love by obeying the Ten Commandments or by showing love to others? (Or both.) Be specific and provide some recent examples.

- Do you consider yourself a child or an adult when it comes to expressing love?

- Where are the “ice weasels” in your definition of love?

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 5

7. From Ms. Moss' concerns about AIDS patients, can you find anything wrong with her actions? Do you feel it was wrong of Ms. Moss to begin getting members of Pastor Hoogan's church involved? Why do you suppose so many were willing to help?

8. What is "the social gospel"? Would you put Ms. Moss' involvement in the AIDS hospice an expression of the social gospel?

9. What does Pastor Hoogan believe concerning the AIDS epidemic? How does it fit into his conservative theology?

10. How do you explain the fact that Pastor Hoogan knew nothing of the outside activities of his church members?

11. Does the fact that Pastor Hoogan didn't get up out of his chair and see Ms. Moss to the door reflect on his feelings about the meeting?

12. In summary, why do you think Pastor Hoogan was so concerned about the news Ms. Moss shared that so many of his church members were involved in "the social gospel"? Who was Pastor Hoogan most concerned for at the moment, and why?

*Study Guide for
The Love Revelation*

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 5

Personal Assessment Questions:

- If you had to choose sides, would you choose sides with Pastor Hoogan or Ms. Moss?

- Do you think a compromise is possible in this situation?

- How do you feel about the AIDS epidemic? Is it something Christians should be involved in, or is AIDS God's judgment against mankind's immorality?

- How does your personal theology and knowledge of the Bible make you feel about this vignette?

The Chapter: "Are We Fighting the Wrong Battles?" (Love and the Ten Commandments)

1. The introduction to chapter 5 raises some interesting observations about the place of the Ten Commandments in the Christian community. Do you believe Judge Roy Moore was right or wrong to stand so firmly on the placement of the Ten Commandments in the rotunda of the Alabama Supreme Court building? Was it worth the price he paid?

*Study Guide for
The Love Revelation*

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 5

6. Take a moment to relate the royal law to the “second tablet”; that is, commandments five through ten. Can you see the connection?

#5: Honor your father and mother.

#6: You shall not murder.

#7: You shall not commit adultery.

#8: You shall not steal.

#9: You shall not bear false witness.

#10: You shall not covet.

7. Can you explain the relationship between the 1st Commandment and the royal law?

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 5

13. What are your feelings about the statement, "...the Law is intended for children, but love is intended for grown-ups. Therefore, the issue is one of spiritual maturity, not spiritual zeal"?

14. Summarize the key themes of this chapter.

15. Write what you believe is the main point of the chapter.

Main Point: _____

Personal Assessment Questions:

- As you reflect on your own standards of godly behavior, which have you relied upon the most: the Ten Commandments or the royal law?

- Is this the first time you've read or heard the message about the royal law in relation to the Ten Commandments? Why do you think that is?

- Do you believe Christians these days are fighting the right battles or the wrong battles when it comes to cultural, social and political issues?

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 6

The Vignette: *Doing Lunch*

Summary: A couple engage each other on the question of abortion.

1. What were the reasons John and Pam were in Mexico? That is, what were their primary motivations?

2. What are John's and Pam's positions on abortion? What is the irony in their individual positions?

3. What were John's and Pam's upbringings like and how did they affect their positions on abortion?

4. Do you think their opposite views on abortion would be different if they were living in the States and not working in such poverty?

5. How do you think John and Pam worked out their marriage when they knew all along that they had differing views on abortion? (Were you surprised to discover they were married?)

Personal Assessment Questions:

- Do you have any friends who have a different viewpoint than yours on such social issues as abortion, homosexuality or gay marriage?

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 6

- Do you believe it was right for John and Pam to marry when they knew they each carried different interpretations of Scripture and had different views on abortion?

- What do you think is the primary message of this vignette?

Chapter 6: “To Be Truthful with You...” (Love and Biblical Truth)

1. In the introduction to the chapter, “Where Is Truth?” the premise is made that “God’s word directly affects what kind of Christian is produced.” Do you agree with this statement? If not, why?

2. It is also the premise of the book that love must be rightly defined because love comes from God, and only God’s word can rightly define love. Do you agree or disagree? If you disagree, why?

3. In the section, “Truth and Love—They are Not Mutually Exclusive,” there are a number of bulleted statements made based on the passage from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians. Which of these statements do you agree or disagree with?

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 6

9. Do you agree with the author’s statement that “There exists an enormous credibility gap between the evangelical’s message and the evangelical’s actions”? If not, can you point to some examples from the churches around you?
10. If you are a liberal Christian and you support a woman’s right to choose, do you find it difficult accepting other aspects of the liberal agenda, such as partial-birth abortion and gay marriage?
11. If you are a part of a megachurch—or any church for that matter—have you ever examined the church’s budget and compared how much it spends on itself as opposed to how much it spends on social needs?
12. Do you agree or disagree with the statement, “Love is what the truth is all about”?
13. Write what you believe is the main point of the chapter.

Main Point: _____

*Study Guide for
The Love Revelation*

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 6

Personal Assessment Questions:

- If you are an evangelical Christian, are you involved in any social outreach programs? If not, why? Have you been encouraged from the pulpit to get involved? If not, why not?

- How would you classify yourself, a conservative evangelical, a liberal Christian, a social progressive, or none of the above? Do you believe there is even such a thing as a “liberal Christian”?

- Why do you think there is such a perceived gap (“perceived” is an important word) in love and truth issues between conservative evangelicals and liberal Christians?

- If you believe that what the author is saying has merit about the priorities of evangelical Christians, and you yourself would classify yourself in that category, what changes are you going to make in your life to alter the perception? Likewise, if you are a liberal Christian or a social progression, what changes do you plan on making if you believe the author’s assumptions have merit?

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 7

9. If someone were to ask you about Christ's *kenosis*, or the meaning of Philippians 2:5-7, how you answer?

10. In the same section, how would you explain to someone John's use of the term *logos* ("Word") when referring to the preincarnate Christ?

11. What evidence do we have from Scripture that Jesus Christ is the expression of God himself?

12. In the section, "The Love of the Son—His Earthly Ministry," the author focuses on the subject of rejection. Have you ever been rejected by someone you loved or even sacrificed for? How did that make you feel, and how did that impact future relationships? Did it affect whether or not you are willing to sacrifice for others?

13. Why do you think the people in the synagogue in Jesus' own hometown reacted so violently toward him when he gave them the good news that even Gentiles would be offered the gospel (good news)?

14. How did Jesus express his love for us when he suffered flogging and crucifixion by the Romans?

*Study Guide for
The Love Revelation*

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 7

15. What the term “ascension” refer to? How did Jesus continue to show his love by ascending with his human nature?
16. What does the term “mediator” mean, and for whom is Jesus the eternal mediator?
17. If Jesus Christ is no longer on the earth to share the good news of God’s love, who, then, is now responsible for doing so?
18. Write what you believe is the main point of the chapter.

Main Point: _____

Personal Assessment Questions:

- What new things did you learn about Christ’s love in this chapter?

- What does it mean to you personally that “...When (Christ) left his preincarnate state with the Father, he left it forever”?

- Does anything expressed in this chapter stimulate you to want to do a better job of loving one another? If not, why, and what would it take?

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 8

5. There's a section in the beginning of the vignette when the supervisor explains, "Here's how we measure productivity." He defines productivity as seeing "visible" and "tangible" results, and raises the interesting question of measuring "the result of teaching." Is he correct, or is there something wrong with the supervisors assumptions and starting point for productivity?

6. Do you agree or disagree with the supervisor's statement, "Teaching is always risky"? If you disagree, why? The supervisor also uses the scribes and Pharisees as an example. Do you agree or disagree with him, and why?

7. What is ironic about the supervisor's greater concern that Jesus' productivity had increased as opposed to the fact that Jesus just raised someone from the dead? What does that tell you about the supervisor's priorities?

Personal Assessment Questions:

- Do you yourself work in the business world, and have you ever been subjected to productivity measurements?

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 8

- If you are a manager, how do you measure productivity in the workplace? Do you use that same measurement of productivity when it comes to the church? If not, why not? If so, is that right? (Along these same lines, if you are a pastor, how do you measure productivity in your staff, or even in yourself? Or is productivity purely a measure that should be used by business?)

- Some churches actually measure productivity in terms of numbers gained per year in membership, or in the number of conversions or baptisms. What other measurements could be used to determine productivity? When it comes to church members themselves, are there some ways that “productivity” could be measured in terms of the theme of this book (the love revelation)? How does that tie in to the term “sanctification” (that is, becoming more Christ-like)?

The Chapter: “Gospel DNA” (Love and the Gospels)

1. The author begins by making the statement, “Two major themes parallel one another throughout the Gospels...” and describes them as “truth” and “love.” What reasons does the author give for making this statement, and how does he say the two are related to one another?

2. Do you agree or disagree with the author’s statement, “Biblical truth points to, validates, and discloses love because love is what biblical truth is all about”? If you disagree, what, then, *is* biblical truth all about?

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 9

- Does your church encourage you to share your faith? If so, do they actually teach you how to share your faith? If they teach you how to share your faith, how do they do that and what do they emphasize, presenting the truth or loving them with good deeds into the kingdom?

The Chapter: “Loving God Means *What?*” (Love and the Great Commandments)

1. What is the “radical change” concerning food that is mentioned in the introduction to the chapter? (If you are unfamiliar with the concept of “clean” and “unclean” foods, it would be helpful to read the appropriate sections in Leviticus 11 and Peter’s vision in Acts 10:9-16.)

2. An analogy is made between the Law (block of ice) and love (water). Explain the analogy. Why is the “block of ice” unable to address all situations in life? (If you are unfamiliar with “The Great Commandments,” they are explained in the following sections.)

3. What critical mistake did Joseph Fletcher make when he made the assertion that “the right thing to do in any given situation is the most loving thing”?

4. What is the “great and foremost commandment”? (See Deuteronomy 6:5 and Matthew 22:37).

*Study Guide for
The Love Revelation*

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 9

5. In the Old Testament, what did it mean to keep the great commandment? Does one's heart need to "be in it" in order to fulfill the great commandment?

6. Can you list the four problems associated with the belief that obeying the great commandment means obeying the law, whether it's OT Law, a church's laws or personal laws?
 1. _____.
 2. _____.
 3. _____.
 4. _____.

7. In the New Testament, how often is the great and foremost commandment referred to outside the Gospels? Is it's absence an oversight by New Testament authors? Is it something that the reader is just supposed to assume should be there? Or do you believe it was intentionally omitted?

8. What is the "second commandment" and from where does it originate? (See Leviticus 19:18.)

9. Why do you think neither the Apostle Paul, James nor John ever refer to the great and foremost commandment as a standard of godly behavior?

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 9

10. What is the “new commandment”?

11. Now, the important question: Based on what is presented in the last section of the chapter, how does a Christian today fulfill the great and foremost commandment?

12. The author states, “To fulfill the royal law was to fulfill the first and foremost commandment *and* the new commandment to love one another.” Comment on the author’s statement, “...The first and foremost commandment was intimately tied to the Law, and the believer is no longer under the Law.”

13. Write what you believe is the main point of the chapter.

Main Point: _____

The Personal Assessment Questions:

- What new things did you learn about the great and foremost commandment, that you should love God with all your heart, mind, strength and soul? Have you been trying to love God by keeping a set of laws?

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 10

The Vignette: *The Pastor's Wife*

Summary: A pastor makes a difficult choice between his love for the ministry and caring for his wife.

1. In a few sentences, how would you describe Pastor Norm's feelings about church ministry? Do you believe he just loved being called a pastor, or do you believe he truly loved the people (or both)?

2. Pastor Norm obviously had a passion for his flock. Because they have invested much into the church, most pastors feel an obligation to continue ministering to the flock even during a personal crisis. Although the vignette doesn't specifically state this, it can be assumed that Pastor Norm also had a burden for the lost and the best way he could reach them was through the ministry of the church. Based on this information, what conflicts might Pastor Norm face when he learned that his wife was gravely ill?

3. Given that there is an entire congregation at stake, and given the fact that potential souls may not continue to be saved through the church, do you believe Pastor Norm made the right decision to leave the ministry to care full-time for his wife? Could he have not just placed her in a nursing facility and let others care for her?

Personal Assessment Question:

- When your father and mother become aged and unable to care for themselves, what plans have you made for their care? Do you anticipate having to make sacrifices of finances, time and personal goals? If not you, then who will?

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 10

12. Can you now answer the question, “How does our righteousness surpass that of the scribes and the Pharisees”? Can you answer the question, “How do we live righteously”? Can you now answer the question, “How do we show God we love him”?

13. Write what you believe is the main point of the chapter.

Main Point: _____

The Personal Assessment Questions:

- What new things have you learned about the biblical subject of righteousness?

- What standards have you been using to determine whether or not you are a righteous person?

- What things are you going to change about your thinking, your belief system, your behaviors and your relationships that will help you to better manifest your imputed righteousness?

- Does anything expressed in this chapter stimulate you to want to do a better job of loving others? If not, why, and what would it take?

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 12

The Vignette: *On the Ferry to Kowloon*

Summary: A doctor and his wife reflect on how the Holy Spirit moved in them to radically change their life goals.

FYI: Are you familiar with Hong Kong? Have you ever been there? Hong Kong is an island, and Kowloon is a major urban/commercial district on the mainland directly adjacent to Hong Kong. Before there were freeways and tunnels connecting the mainland with the island, the primary means of reaching Hong Kong Island was via the Star Ferry, still operating today. The ferries carry both autos and pedestrians.

1. Describe the situation for the doctor and his wife when they first visited Hong Kong. What kind of a trip were they on and what was their main purpose for taking the trip? What kind of lifestyle do you believe characterized the doctor and his wife back home?

2. What were the events leading up to the point that the doctor and his wife had to face a reality they were perhaps unaccustomed to? What was the turning point for the doctor's wife? Have you ever experienced a similar time or event?

3. Which of the two, the doctor or his wife, were most in denial concerning the human needs around them? Which of them initiated the suggestion that they could only deny their uncomfortable brush with reality so long? If you are married or in a relationship with a significant other, which of the two of you tend to be more sensitive to the human needs around you (especially if those needs involve children)?

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 12

5. Admittedly, the explanation of sinful nature, flesh and self is a bit tedious. The author encourages the reader to reread the section as many times as required for fully understand the principles being stated. It would also be helpful looking up the scriptures cited in the text, to add to one's understanding. After rereading the section until an understanding is achieved, answer the following questions.

T/F – For the Christian, the flesh is the same as the sinful nature (old self, old man).

T/F – Christians struggle with sin because they still have a sinful nature.

T/F – Every Christian has a new nature which they can choose to follow if they desire.

T/F – A Christian can eventually overcome all weaknesses of the flesh and live a sinless life.

T/F – The reason Christians still sin is because the sinful nature left an indelible mark on the flesh.

6. What are the scriptures referring to when the word “flesh” is used? Is the “flesh” the same thing as the “sinful nature” (“old self,” “old man”)? Where did the sinful nature come from and what is its impact on the flesh?
7. What happens to the sinful nature (old self, old man) when we receive Jesus Christ as our personal Savior? (Review Romans 6:1-7.) Does a Christian have a sinful nature present, or does a Christian have flesh that has been permanently tainted by the sinful nature? What kind of a nature does a Christian have? (Review 2 Peter 1:4.)
8. Okay. A Christian no longer has a sinful nature, but instead has the flesh which has been permanently tainted by the sinful nature. Now that a Christian has a “divine nature” (“new nature”), is the Christian “obligated” by the flesh to continue in sin and have sin become a master of him or her? (Review Romans 6:12-14.)

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 13

The Vignette: *His Perfect World*

Summary: A Christian man decides to get serious about his Christian life, unfortunately resulting in tragic results.

1. Another title for his vignette might be, “Good Intentions Gone Bad.” Do you think Craig Lawson’s initial intentions were good or bad? Do you think the men’s group leader was wrong to ask the men to sign a covenant, or did that have anything to do with it?

2. Can you describe Craig Lawson’s personality? What were his strong areas and what were his weak ones?

3. Craig Lawson is very sensitive to one thing especially. What was it? Are there some alternative ways he could have dealt with this one area?

4. What was the problem with Craig isolating himself from his family, and then from his accountability group? Do you think Craig had a problem with pride? With perfectionism?

5. How would Craig Lawson define a spiritually mature Christian?

*Study Guide for
The Love Revelation*

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 13

The Chapter: “Will I Ever Love My Neighbor As Myself?” (Love and the Millennium)

1. Have you ever heard of the millennium? What do you know about it? The author takes a premillennial position; that is, the millennium will not begin until Christ returns at the end of the church age, and will last a thousand years. Do you take a different position, such as an amillennial or post-millennial position? If so, does it make any difference in the final conclusions that author makes in this chapter?

2. The author states in the opening section that the one word most Christians consistently use to describe the millennium is “peace.” Do you agree?

3. The next section presents the theological concept of “progressive revelation.” In your own words, describe progressive revelation. What two “revelations” found in the New Testament does the author describe as typical of progressive revelation? (Hint: one had to do with Jesus and the cross, and the other had to do with the Gentiles.) How does the author relate progressive revelation to love?

4. In the last section, “The Mark of the Millennium,” the author states that Christ will heal all people living on earth at the time, and heal them of their inability to consistently express love to one another. Do you agree or disagree with that statement?
(FYI: The consensus of evangelical, premillennial thought is that during the millennium, both humans and resurrected saints will populate the earth. The resurrected saints will serve as Christ’s priests.)

***Study Guide for
The Love Revelation***

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 14

4. Characterize the response of the faculty to Dean Wright's proposal to start a curriculum on John 13:34-35. How would you characterize their priorities?

5. Why do you think it was Dean Wright and his wife who ended up teaching the Love Track?

Personal Assessment Questions:

- If you are a pastor or seminary professor, how would you begin teaching your congregation or students how to love? Is there any curriculum out there you know of for teaching Christians how to love? If you are a pastor, when was the last time you taught on, not just the subject of love, but how to love?

- If you are a Christian looking for a way to increase your ability to show biblical love, where will you go to find it?

*Study Guide for
The Love Revelation*

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 14

The Chapter: “How Do We Then Love?” (Love and the Christian)

This chapter summarizes the contents of each chapter. It would be helpful for the reader to review the main point you wrote for each chapter in the study guides.

Chapter 1: _____

Chapter 2: _____

Chapter 3: _____

Chapter 4: _____

Chapter 5: _____

Chapter 6: _____

Chapter 7: _____

Chapter 8: _____

Chapter 9: _____

Chapter 10: _____

Chapter 11: _____

Chapter 12: _____

Chapter 13: _____

Chapter 14: _____

Study Guide for The Love Revelation

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 14

In the section “Steps to Love,” the author identifies three types of readers: those who have never made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ, those who have made a personal commitment to Christ but have been living a selfish life not characterized by love, and those who are right with God but have determined what it means to live a righteous life based on some aspect of law (Ten Commandments, a church’s laws, personal laws). Which of the three characterizes you? (There may be more than simply one.) Place a checkmark by the statement that best characterizes you.

- I have never committed my life to Christ.
- I have committed my life to Christ, but I have not been living a life characterized by love.
- I have committed my life to Christ and have been living in a right relationship with God, but have been basing my personal righteousness based on some set of rules (e.g., the Ten Commandments). I now realize that being right with God based on the Law is inadequate.

(Of course, there are always nuances that fit somewhere in between the three statements above. If necessary, compose your own. Regardless of where exactly you may find yourself as a Christian, you can certainly commit to studying God’s word regarding truth and determining to live a life characterized by biblical love.)

Now it’s time to act on what you’ve learned. For each of the three statements above, there is a simple prayer in the book that goes along with it. The author encourages you to *not wait any longer to change your life*. Choose one of the prayers and state it by faith right now! Can you really come up with a good excuse not to?

If you chose the first statement and have just committed your life to Christ, the author encourages you to become involved in a Bible teaching church. You need fellowship and the help of others to get you started on your Christian life. The author would be more than happy to encourage you on your journey as a new believer. You can contact the author at author@theloverevelation.com.

If you chose the second statement, you can begin experiencing for the first time what it means to experience and express God’s love – biblical love. The author encourages you to *get into the word of God!* A great place you, your friends, and your family can start is a Bible study program found at walkwiththeword.org. Audio lessons can be downloaded that combine the principles of “The Love Revelation” with weekly Bible studies.

If you chose the third statement, you have a wonderful new freedom to look forward to! Christ never intended his followers to live under the burden of law. Examine everything you’ve learned from your church or denomination about how to live a righteous life, and you’ll find it’s easy to weed out the legitimate from the illegitimate. The true measure is biblical love, whether you’re following the Ten Commandments or the many New Testament admonitions on how to love one another. Once you break free from the Law, you will experience grace like you’ve never known it before. For you, there is a special message: God loves you and wants you to experience and express his love, free from the Law. Now do it!