

## Moroni 7:44–48

### “The Pure Love of Christ”

Think about times when you felt Christlike love. What difference has Christlike love made in your life? Moroni recorded the conclusion of the sermon that his father, Mormon, had delivered in a synagogue years earlier. Mormon taught how to “lay hold upon every good thing” ([Moroni 7:20, 25](#)), especially charity, “the pure love of Christ” ([Moroni 7:47](#)). This lesson is intended to help you understand and seek charity in your life.

### Christlike love

If possible, begin by watching or reading at least one of the following stories of someone reaching out in love. Ponder what difference Christlike love can make.



1) A young boy gives selflessly to another child in need. Watch “[The Coat](#)” (2:07), available at [ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#), or read the story, which is a true account from President Heber J. Grant’s childhood (“[The Coat](#),” *Friend*, Mar. 2012, 16–17).

2) Instead of playing a joke on a stranger, two boys decide to help him. Watch “[Gordon Hinckley: Lessons I Learned as a Boy](#)” (4:04), available at [ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#).

3) A group of young women reach out in kindness and charity to a student with a disability. Watch “[Charity: An Example of the Believers](#)” (4:50), available at [ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#).

Why do you think Christlike love can be such a powerful influence in our lives?

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Who has been an example of Christlike love in your life?

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Both Mormon and the Apostle Paul taught that developing Christlike love is essential for our progression (see [Moroni 7:44](#); [1 Corinthians 13:2](#)). To help you evaluate how well you are developing Christlike love, ponder how true the following statements are for you on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = never true; 5 = always true):

I try to help and serve others, especially when they are struggling or discouraged. \_\_\_\_\_

I try to be kind, patient, and forgiving with others, even when they are hard to get along with. \_\_\_\_\_

When appropriate, I tell others that I love them and care about them. \_\_\_\_\_

As you study [Moroni 7](#), ask the Lord to help you understand and seek charity. \_\_\_\_\_

## Mormon's sermon on charity

Near the end of his record, Moroni included a sermon his father, Mormon, had given to the “peaceable followers of Christ” ([Moroni 7:3](#)). Mormon taught principles of love that, if heeded, could have prevented the Nephites’ destruction. These teachings would also be relevant to Moroni, who witnessed the Nephites’ brutal destruction by the Lamanites and wandered alone for years.

Read [Moroni 7:47](#) and mark the phrase that describes the love Mormon taught about.

Jesus Christ set the perfect example for us of how to love others. Read [Moroni 7:45–48](#), looking for phrases that (1) further describe charity, or how to love like the Savior, and (2) increase your desire to develop charity in your life. [Moroni 7:45–48](#) is a doctrinal mastery passage. Consider marking doctrinal mastery passages in a distinctive way so you can locate them easily. You will have an opportunity in the next lesson to practice applying the doctrine taught in this passage to a question or situation.

### The following definitions may be helpful:

“suffereth long” = endures trials patiently

“envieth not” = is not jealous of others

“not puffed up” = humble

“seeketh not her own” = puts God and the needs of others before self

“not easily provoked” = not angered easily

“believeth all things” = accepts all truth

Consider marking from the phrase “charity never faileth” in [verse 46](#) through the phrase “it endureth forever” in [verse 47](#). Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles taught:

*Life has its share of fears and failures. Sometimes things fall short. Sometimes people fail us, or economies or businesses or governments fail us. But one thing in time or eternity does not fail us—the pure love of Christ. (Jeffrey R. Holland, Christ and the New Covenant: The Messianic Message of the Book of Mormon [1997], 337)*

Why do you think the pure love of Christ will never fail us?

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How can the love of the Savior help us in ways nothing else can?

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President Thomas S. Monson (1927–2018) taught about charity in detail. If possible, watch “[Charity Never Faileth](#),” available at [ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#), from time code 15:05 to 17:22. Or read the address, beginning with “I consider charity” and ending with “resisting the impulse to categorize others” (“[Charity Never Faileth](#),” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 124). Look for additional phrases President Monson used to describe the pure love of Christ.

## Your questions about charity

What questions do you have about what charity is or how to be filled with this love?

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### To help answer your questions, do the following:

- Study the following teachings of the Savior about love or charity: [Matthew 5:43–44](#); [Matthew 22:37–40](#); [John 15:12](#).
- Think of a scripture account when the Savior illustrated charity. Locate and read the example you thought of, or use one of the following:
- The Savior ate with publicans and sinners (see [Matthew 9:10–13](#)). (A publican was a tax collector for the Romans, who had conquered Israel at the time.)
- The Savior rescued and taught the woman caught in adultery (see [John 8:1–11](#)).
- The Savior suffered, atoned, and died for all mankind (see [Luke 22:41–44](#); [23:33–34](#); [1 Nephi 19:9](#); [Doctrine and Covenants 19:16–19](#)).
- The Savior healed and blessed the people of the Americas (see [3 Nephi 17:5–12, 21–24](#)).
- Think of experiences when you felt the pure love that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ have for you or when you felt charity toward someone else.

### How to gain and show charity

Consider marking Mormon’s exhortation to “pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love” ([Moroni 7:48](#)).

How do you think praying to Heavenly Father could help fill us with charity?

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Create a realistic scenario in which a teenager’s response could demonstrate whether or not they are filled with charity.

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Answer the following questions as if you were in that situation:

According to what you have learned from [Moroni 7:45, 47-48](#) and the example of the Savior, how could you show Christlike love in this situation?

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How could heartfelt prayer help you respond with love in this situation?

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What challenges might you face as you try to apply what you have learned? How could you act in faith even with these challenges?

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Take a moment to write down what you would like to do to better understand and develop the attribute of charity.

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