

"SPECTRUM OF THE LIGHT"

RED

What is the technical significance of this color?

Red is a primary color; which means it cannot be made by mixing other colors. Red light waves are the longest waves that can be processed by the unaided human eye.

Does this color have any symbolic meaning?

There is both secular and Biblical symbolism to the color Red. Red is used at Christmas and Valentine's day. It is used to represent the heart which in turn represents **love**. Red is also symbolic for **blood**. The Red Cross is world renown for their blood drives.

The Bible has numerous references to red, scarlet, and crimson. Scarlet and crimson are usually references to dyes of reddish hues. Red is used as the color of **sin**.

Isaiah 1:18, *"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your **sins** be as **scarlet**, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."* The dragon, a red dragon, represents Satan.

Revelation 12:3, *"And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads."*

In colonial America, the Puritans would sew a scarlet capital letter to a person's garment to let everyone know what sin they had committed. They

used Isaiah 1:18 as the basis for this practice. Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter" is about a woman who was forced to wear a red letter "A" on her garments when she was caught committing adultery.

We can see that red symbolizes: love, blood, and sin. So in a sense, it represents the Gospel message: God **LOVES** us so much that He had the **BLOOD** of Jesus shed as payment for our **SIN**.

What attribute of Jesus does this color represent?

Love.

How did Jesus demonstrate His LOVE?

Through forgiveness...

Matthew 5:44, *"But I say to you, Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,"*

Jesus commanded those who heard Him to love those that are hard to love. One can only do that if they have forgiven "those who persecute you".

Luke 23:34, *"And Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."*

Having been savagely and brutally beaten and crucified, Jesus wasn't thinking of Himself, but caring for others. The very ones that had done that to Him! He had already forgiven them in His heart and was petitioning Father God to be merciful and forgive them too.

Through giving hope...

Luke 23:42-43, *"Then he said to Jesus, 'Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.'" [43] And Jesus said to him, 'Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.'"*

Again, while Jesus is suffering on the cross, He is concerned about others. This time, He responds with love to the repentant thief. The thief, perhaps for the only time in his life, had hope.

Through ultimate selflessness...

John 15:13, *"No one has greater love than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."*

Here Jesus Himself defines the greatest expression of love... to sacrifice themselves for their friends.

How can we demonstrate this attribute in OUR life?**Forgive the unforgiveable.**

We have received forgiveness for our transgressions because of the Lord's love for us. To demonstrate the same Love that Jesus has, we need to forgive those who wronged us. No matter how unforgiveable the offense may appear.

Matthew 6:14, *"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you;"* This verse assures us that God will take care of us if we reach out in love and forgive others.

Hebrews 6:10 "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

Share a vision of hopefulness.

Regardless of your personal circumstances, focus on the needs of others. Even though we may be going through a rough spot or a trial, if we can help lift someone else's spirits, share the hope that all believers should have, then we are sharing Jesus' love with them.

Be sacrificial with your time, money, and resources. No matter how busy our own lives are, when we set aside time to help someone, buy a needed item for someone, or loan them something, we are demonstrating the type of sacrificial love that Jesus has shown.

How fitting that red is the longest light wave and that it symbolizes love.

Romans 5:20 "...But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound, " No matter how deep a person has fallen into sin, no matter how seriously they've been hurt, God's love goes beyond that.