



"And now I am no more in the world,  
but these are in the world..." (John 17:11).

Use this recent news story to help your students see the relevance  
of this week's lesson from the Standard Lesson Commentary®  
or Standard Lesson Quarterly®.

### **THE COST OF HEALTH CARE**

One of President Trump's campaign promises is currently being tested by Congress as it struggles over a replacement for the Affordable Care Act. The debate is largely along partisan lines, but Republicans are far from united about what the outcome should be. The challenge seems overwhelming: What can be pruned from the ACA to save the government money while still providing a reasonable and fair level of medical care for citizens without costing them more than they can personally afford?

### **THE COST OF LOVE**

At the heart of the ACA-replacement debate is the question of whether the government should pay (or at least subsidize) the cost of health insurance for all its citizens. Obeying Jesus' words to "Love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12) is difficult enough for us individually. How much more difficult to do this as a society, especially when it demands sacrifice by some to benefit others!

1. Is legislating universal health care a possible, appropriate, or reasonable way for a nation to "love" its citizens?
2. Should Jesus' command to love others have any effect on the way Christians think about societal issues such as health care? Why or why not?
3. What personal challenges do you face in regard to loving others?
4. Jesus speaks of the pruning activity of our loving heavenly Father. In what way have you seen this at work in your life?
5. How does knowledge of Jesus' love for you "make your joy complete" (John 15:11)?

—Charles R. Boatman

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