

# God's Love

Understanding the depth and breadth of God's love for us

## God's Essential Nature is Love

### **1 John 4:8**

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

### **1 John 4:16**

And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

### **Exodus 34:6-7**

[6] And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,  
[7] Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

### **Psalm 103:8**

(See Psalm 103:8)

Scripture makes the astounding declaration that 'God is love'—not merely that He loves, but that love constitutes His essential nature and character. He that loveth not knoweth not God, for God is love.

We have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love, and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

This love is not sentiment or emotion but the very essence of the divine being. When God revealed Himself to Moses, He proclaimed His character: 'The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.' The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

Every attribute of God—His sovereignty, holiness, justice, and power—operates in perfect harmony with His love. Understanding that God is love transforms our view of creation, providence, redemption, and eternity.

## Love Demonstrated in Creation and Providence

### **Psalm 136:1-9**

(See Psalm 136:1-9)

### **Acts 14:16-17**

[16] Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. [17] Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

### **Matthew 5:45**

That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

### **Psalm 145:9**

(See Psalm 145:9)

God's love appears in His creative work and ongoing providence. The psalmist recounts God's mighty acts, repeatedly declaring, 'for his mercy endureth for ever.' He made the heavens, the earth, the sun, moon, and stars in wisdom—His love demonstrated in creation's order and beauty.

Though past generations walked in their own ways, yet He left not Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. God makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust—common grace flowing from divine benevolence.

The LORD is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works. The very existence and sustenance of creation testifies to God's loving character, providing abundant evidence of His goodness even to those who reject Him.

# Covenant Love and Faithfulness

## **Jeremiah 31:3**

The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

## **Deuteronomy 7:7-9**

[7] The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: [8] But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. [9] Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

## **Hosea 11:1-4**

[1] When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt. [2] As they called them, so they went from them: they sacrificed unto Baalim, and burned incense to graven images. [3] I taught Ephraim also to go, taking them by their arms; but they knew not that I healed them. [4] I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love: and I was to them as they that take off the yoke on their jaws, and I laid meat unto them.

## **Lamentations 3:22-23**

[22] It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. [23] They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

God's covenant love toward His people demonstrates loyal, unchanging commitment. The LORD declared, 'I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.' This love is not based on Israel's merit—'The LORD did not set His love upon you nor choose you because ye were more in number than any people, for ye were the fewest of all people.' Rather, it flows from His sovereign will and covenant faithfulness.

When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt. I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love.

God's love persists despite human unfaithfulness. It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.

They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness. This covenant love, the Hebrew *hesed*, combines loyal affection with committed action—God binds Himself to His people and never forsakes them.

## Love's Supreme Demonstration at Calvary

### **John 3:16**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

### **Romans 5:8**

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

### **1 John 4:9-10**

[9] In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. [10] Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

### **Ephesians 2:4-5**

[4] But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, [5] Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

The cross of Christ stands as history's supreme revelation of divine love. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

God commendeth His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him.

Herein is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He

loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ.

This love is not response to human worthiness but sovereign initiative toward the undeserving. The infinite cost—God's beloved Son suffering and dying—measures love's magnitude.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

## The Unfailing and Inseparable Nature of God's Love

### **Romans 8:38-39**

[38] For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, [39] Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Psalms 103:17**

(See Psalm 103:17)

### **Isaiah 54:10**

For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.

### **John 13:1**

Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

God's love toward His children is absolutely secure and unbreakable. Paul declared with confidence: 'I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.' The mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children's children.

Though the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, yet My kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of My peace be removed, saith the

LORD that hath mercy on thee. Having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end.

This love is not fickle or conditional but eternal and immutable, grounded in God's unchanging character rather than human performance.

## Comprehending and Experiencing God's Love

### **Ephesians 3:17-19**

[17] That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, [18] May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; [19] And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

### **Romans 5:5**

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

### **1 John 3:1**

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

### **Psalms 107:43**

(See Psalm 107:43)

While God's love surpasses human comprehension, believers are called to know it experientially. Paul prayed that believers, being rooted and grounded in love, might be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Though it surpasses knowledge, it may be known through experience. The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us—the Spirit makes divine love a living reality in believers' experience.

Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God! The wonder of God's adopting love should move us to

amazement and worship.

Whoso is wise and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD. Meditation on Scripture, Spirit-illumination, and practical experience of God's faithfulness deepen our comprehension of His love.

## The Believer's Response to God's Love

### **1 John 4:19**

We love him, because he first loved us.

### **Deuteronomy 6:5**

And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

### **John 14:15**

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

### **2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

[14] For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: [15] And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

God's love demands and enables our responsive love. We love Him because He first loved us.

Thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. This love is not mere emotion but wholehearted devotion expressed through obedient surrender.

If ye love Me, keep My commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not grievous.

The love of Christ constraineth us, having concluded that if one died for all, then were all dead, and that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves but unto Him which died for them and rose again. Proper response to divine love includes grateful worship, trusting obedience, sacrificial

service, and passionate witness.

Those who truly comprehend God's love cannot remain passive or indifferent but are compelled to reciprocate through devoted living.

## Loving Others as God Has Loved Us

### **John 13:34**

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

### **1 John 4:11**

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

### **Ephesians 5:1-2**

[1] Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; [2] And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

### **Matthew 5:43-48**

[43] Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. [44] But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; [45] That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. [46] For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? [47] And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? [48] Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Having received God's love, believers must extend it to others. A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. Be ye therefore followers of God as dear children, and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God.



This love extends even to enemies: 'Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you, that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven.' God's love, received and experienced, must flow through believers to others. By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Our love for others both demonstrates God's love and reflects His character to a watching world, serving as powerful evidence of genuine conversion and the gospel's transforming power.

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