

God is Love
Series: God Is
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Things To Get Us Started:

- To some, this may seem redundant because we already know about this characteristic of God. But, if we think that way, we can close ourselves off from God giving us a new perspective on His love and how it works in the world and people's lives.
- This attribute of God is probably the one most people think of when asked to describe what God is like.
- As we go through this series, I want us to see that God is the One Who can meet our needs and answer our questions.
- The Bible tells us that God is personal, caring, loving, and actively engaged in our lives. His is not powerless or impersonal.
- The Christian view is that God is One in nature, yet three Persons Who make up the Godhead - Father, Son, Holy Spirit.
- God's love is not an "I'll love you if." It is "I love you in spite of"; "I love you regardless"; "I love you no matter what."

What The Bible Says About God's Love

God's love gives the best

- Note **Rom. 5:6-10**. In **vs. 8** the word "show," regarding God's love, is continual. He continually reaches out to us.
- We are sinners and needed our relationship with God restored. God took the steps to fix the problem.
- **John 3:16; 1 Jn. 4:7-10** tell us about God's love. See **Eph. 2:4-5**.
- We can love God and others because God loves us (**Mt. 22:34-40**).
- **Note:** We experience God's love daily. He provides for us, He hears our prayers, He takes care of us. We also show God's love to others by reaching out, being a friend, or helping someone in need.

God's love does not focus on condemning

- Some of us have felt the sting of condemnation from others.
- Jesus came to save us, not to condemn us. See **Jn. 3:17-19**. We are condemned if we reject Christ, but He offers salvation to all.
- **Rom. 8:1** says we are not condemned if we know Christ. **Lk. 15** tells the story of the prodigal. See **Lk. 15:20**, love in action.
- In **Lk. 15:20**, we see forgiveness, grace, and mercy.
- **Note:** As believers we are not condemned. We need to not beat ourselves up when we sin. Repent, and get back up.

God's love is seen in us living a full life

- God is relational. He has given us the Holy Spirit (**Rom. 5:5**), the Bible, and others to help us live as we were meant to (**Jn. 10:10**).
- Because God loves us, He is concerned for us. See **Gen. 4:6-7**.
- **Note:** God wants to protect us. He knows what is best for us and the life He offers for us is fulfilling. When we follow what God says, we live a balanced life.

God loves us so much He left us an instruction manual

- God provides guidance, counsel and help on how to live in the pages of the Bible.
- **Ps. 119** says many great things about God's Word.
- **Note:** God did not leave us with no direction. He has given us the guidebook for how to live.

Some Things To Take With Us

God will never reject us

- **Rom. 8:31-39** tells us nothing can separate us from God's love. This should motivate us to live in a way that honors Him.
- Let go of guilt thinking God cannot forgive or love us.

God gives directions on how to live a great life

- **2 Tim. 3:16-17** tells us God provides what we need to grow.
- To discover what God expects and wants for us, we need to be in His Word. We learn about so many things. God's Word provides help for all kinds of areas - money, relationships, emotions, etc.

God's love helps us understand forgiveness

- We are completely forgiven (**Rom. 4:6-8**) of all our sins. We still need to deal with sins that we commit by repenting because it grieves God's Spirit (**Eph. 4:30**). We also can forgive others.

God's love changes our attitude toward others

- We can love difficult people because we have experienced God's love in our lives (**Mt. 22:34-40; Rom. 12:17-21**). This includes those difficult people we meet. Rise above their behavior.

Think about God's love and how it has impacted our life and look for ways to show it to the world around us.