

## God Is Uncaused Love

Many people are confused about God's love because God doesn't love the way we do. God's love is eternal, unconditional, and unchanging. He loved us before time began, knows us completely, and will love us forever, regardless of our failures or circumstances. Unfortunately, not everyone believes this, especially the non-Christian religions. Their god is not portrayed as a personal, giving, loving god but rather as a god of appeasement, one whose demands must be satisfied to gain his attention or favor. The Scripture presents a very different picture of our God, the three persons of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Bible says, **1 John 4:8,16:** *"The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love. We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him."* What does the apostle John mean when he says that God is love? First, we must understand what John doesn't mean; he is not simply saying that God loves. While true, that is only a fraction of what John is saying. John tells us that love is the very essence of God's moral nature. He tells us that God himself is love, not merely one of His attributes alongside power and justice, but who He is. Love fills God's attributes. God defines what true love is, and He is the source of all true love. What exactly does that mean? There is as much confusion about love as there is about the nature of God. The love of God is a vast subject, far beyond any human ability to comprehend, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't try to learn about it. **1 John 4:7:** *"Beloved, let's love one another; for love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God."* The Bible teaches us that God's love is uncaused. In our human relationships, we love another person because we see something in that person that attracts us. But God's love for us is uncaused, unprompted, uninfluenced, free, and natural. There is nothing we can do to cause God to love us, and there is nothing we can do to prevent Him from loving us. God loves us because He has chosen to love us, and He loves us because that's all He can do. God is love. The apostle Paul tells us, **Colossians 3:12-14:** *"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. In addition to all these things, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."* When we open the pages of the Bible and read about God's love, we see love described in ways we never imagined. Maybe we grew up thinking we had to do so many good things for God to love us, and that if we didn't, He wouldn't. But remember, God is uncaused love. It comes from Him. It has nothing to do with us. Live in this absolute assurance, no matter who you are, no matter where you've come from, no matter what you've done. God loves you. He always has, and He always will.