

THE LOVE OF GOD

GOD IS LOVE, IT IS HIS NATURE

Key Scriptures: Jeremiah 31:3, 1 John 4:7-8, 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Romans 8:37-38

God is Love. His greatest desire is that all men and women would intimately know Him and be acquainted with who He is. The more we draw near to Him, the more we will know Him. Being in His family is more than religious do's and don'ts, it is being continually filled with and transformed by His love. Develop a lifestyle of receiving Father's great love for you!

1. Discuss 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 and how you want to know God's nature of love more.
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UNCONDITIONAL LOVE WAS DEMONSTRATED THROUGH HIS SACRIFICE

Key Scriptures: John 3:16, John 15:13, Romans 5:8, Ephesians 2:1-5, Luke 23:34

When we were dead in sin and had no knowledge of God, He sent His son Jesus Christ to die for us. God showed His unconditional love by sending Jesus before there was anything we could do to earn it! Through this demonstration, He proved that He loves us as much as His own Son Jesus. If He loved you when you were a sinner, know for sure that He loves you as His child.

Jesus demonstrated God's love by forgiving them that mocked Him and hung Him on the cross. His **love** leads us to turn and make our lives right with Him. Even in the times that we have sinned, He has drawn us, and will always draw us back to Him with His love.

1. According to John 15:13, there is no greater love than to what?
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2. How does Jesus's demonstration of forgiveness on the cross show us His unconditional love?
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3. Do you believe God loves you as much as He loves Jesus? How did He prove that?
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HE GAVE US HIS LOVE AND WE FREELY LOVE HIM IN RESPONSE

Key Scriptures: Matthew 22:36-38, 1John 4:19, Romans 5:5, Luke 7:41-48

Now that we've been re-created in Him, His love has been lavishly poured in our hearts by His Holy Spirit. Now we are capable of fulfilling the greatest commandment. We can love Him because He first loved us. Through Jesus the door is open to enter in and truly KNOW the Love of God. As we know the love of God, we can't help but to pour the perfume of worship on His feet!

Jesus spoke of the woman who had many sins forgiven, therefore she loved much. He also said, *"But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."* The greater the **understanding** of how much we have been forgiven, the greater capacity we have to love our Father God! We have **all** been forgiven a debt we could not pay. As you grow in your relationship with the Lord, you begin to realize the extent of His great forgiveness and love toward you, and your capacity to love Him grows deeply.

1. Discuss how God's love and forgiveness has been revealed to you, and how you have come to love Him in response.

2. What is the greatest commandment God has given to mankind? Are we capable of fulfilling it?

3. Discuss how you desire to grow more in your love relationship with the Lord.

HIS LOVE COMPELS US TO OBEY HIS COMMANDMENTS

Key Scriptures: Mark 12:29-31, Matthew 5:44, John 15:10-12&17, 1 John 4:11-12 & 21, 1John 5:1-3

Through Jesus' sacrifice, our Father has **made us one with His wonderful love.** With that oneness is complete healing and wholeness. As we realize that His love lives inside of us, we realize that we have the FULL ABILITY to carry out His command: to love others (even our enemies) selflessly, the way that He does.

No natural man or woman could love their enemies, or those who have wounded them, but God made the way for us by placing His love and nature inside of us. We no longer live needy for the affection of others. We love others as a demonstration of our love for our Father! Being born of God, it is our delight to obey Him. We are able to fulfill His commandments of loving Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

1. What is the second greatest commandment God has given to mankind? Are we capable of fulfilling it?

2. Discuss ways you can demonstrate God's love to your family, friends and neighbors. Also discuss ways you can demonstrate God's love to those who have been or are mean or even cruel to you.
