



# God is love

## 1 John 4:7-21

**Genesis 29:18-20; Deuteronomy 6:1-5; John 3:14-21; 21:15-17;**

**Romans 8:35-39; 1 Corinthians 13.**

The Love of God shows His divine initiative for in 1 John 4:19 we read, *"He first loved us"*.

When man sinned and thus rejected God's love, the Lord Jesus Christ laid aside (for 33 years) His glorious power and position in Heaven and came to suffer and die for us in order that His love might redeem us and make it possible for us to repent and return to His love for us.

There cannot be love without an object to be loved. God is Love, this means He has, from eternity, an object for His Love.

The Love of God is a love that initiates. The love of God is a love that persists.

It is both a personal and an individual love. The Gospels show the Lord Jesus constantly dealing with individuals - Nicodemus (John 3); the Samaritan woman (John 4) etc.

If you had been the one and only sinner on this earth, Jesus would have been sent by His Father to save you just as willingly as He came to save the teeming millions. "He loves us", says Augustine, "as though there were but one of us to love".

By His death and resurrection the Lord demonstrated that the one unconquerable thing is His love. Through the shedding of His blood we see the love of His Father.

***This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:10***

In John chapter 21, the Lord Jesus asked Peter the same question three times.

***"Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" John 21:15***

***"Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" John 21:16***

***"Simon son of John, do you love me?" John 21:17***

Peter had denied Him three times and the Lord thus demanded a threefold confession of his love for Him. God wants us to have so much of His love, and His love is inexhaustible, yet so little is availed of.

God lays great emphasis on our loving Him with all we have. God taught this in the Old Testament

***Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:5***

The Lord Jesus taught that this is the first commandment

***Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Mark 12:30***

It is very important to God and it should be to us too.

God loves not just a nation but every single individual (John 3.16); not just the good people but the unlovely and the unlovable as well. God loves those who do not love Him. In 1 Timothy 2:3-4, Paul says, ***“God our Saviour...wants all men to be saved”***.

In Romans 8:35-39 we see the unlimited expanse of God’s love

***Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:35-39***

**Perfect love is an act of helping someone who can in no way return the favour as Christ did for us on Calvary.**

Love never fails.

***Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 1 Cor 13:8***

Worldly wealth, for us, must end at our death. All our gifts and abilities must cease when we are deceased.

Love is God and God is Love. He is God of Heaven. His love cannot come to an end. God's love cannot fail; it is everlasting.

His love:

- wins us
- forgives us
- restores us
- opens the gates of heaven for us
- conquers death.

Love cannot be conquered. It is God. God is love.