

God is Love

1 John 4:16

And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. NAS

God's love is....

Infinite

Complete and full understanding of God's love is humanly unknowable.

There are many things that we do know about God's love. Indeed to know God is to know His love. But to know its fullness is quite another thing. God's love is greater than the distanced between heaven and earth. This expresses the absolute and total infinite measurement of God's love. It is truly infinite and therefore not fully comprehensible by finite beings such as us. God's love surpasses knowledge as Eph 3:19 points out. This is a marvelous truth, indeed it such a comforting Truth because we have the privilege of being the objects of His love. And why? Because we "fear Him." This great love is toward those who fear Him. We can never therefore plumb the depths of God's love for us, nor can it ever run dry. Rather it is a river as infinitely full and complete as God Himself. **God's love is infinite.**

Ps 103:11-13 - 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. 12 As far as the east is from the west,

So far has He removed our transgressions from us. 13 Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him. NAS

Eph 3:18-19 - 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, NAS

Job 11:7-9 - "Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? 8 They are higher than the heavens-what can you do? They are deeper than the depths of the grave-what can you know? 9 Their measure is longer than the earth and wider than the sea. NIV

Gracious

God's extends His love to them which are undeserving.

Friends, in relation to God we must ask ourselves, "What is it in us that is deserving of God's love?" Being the sinful creatures that we are, we continually violate His love and kindness to us. We often show contempt for His love in ways, which deserve His wrath rather than His benevolence. At times we are unloving, ungrateful, unforgiving, and we elevate our own selfish wants above the needs of others and our desires above God's. Now you realize that if God loves a being like this, it is truly "unmerited." **Consider therefore the love of God.** God gives His love to us when we are sinners, His enemies (Rom 5:8). When we were in our trespasses and sins against Him, Christ died for us. God gave His only Son, who had done nothing deserving of death, to die for the very people who were spurning and forsaking His love. If this is how God loves us when we are His enemies, how much more then does He love us when we turn away from our sin and embrace Him instead? God's love to us is so rich and full! I tell you the truth, when we embrace Him, He will put a royal robe on our backs, a ring on our finger, and invite us into His Kingdom to celebrate our return to Him with feasting and joy for the endless eons and ages of eternity. How often we overlook and take for granted such a great love. **God's love is Gracious.**

1 John 3:1 - See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are. NAS

Ps 36:7-9 - 7 How precious is Thy lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in

the shadow of Thy wings. 8 They drink their fill of the abundance of Thy house; And Thou dost give them to drink of the river of Thy delights. 9 For with Thee is the fountain of life; In Thy light we see light. NAS

1 John 4:10 - Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins. (ASV)

Rom 5:8 - 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. NAS

Rom 8:28 - 28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. NAS

Eternal

Because God is eternal, so therefore is His love.

Granted that such a concept far transcends the grasp of our feeble minds, nevertheless, where we cannot comprehend we will bow in adoring worship (AW Pink). His love always has been, is now, and always will be. It will never end. God's love for us was "given before the beginning of time" (2 Tim1:9). We were "chosen in Him before the foundation of the world...in love (Eph 1:4)" Indeed this is the meaning of the word "foreknowledge." (Rom 8:29, 1 Pet 1:2) He chose to love us in the ages past, He manifested His love to us through the death of His Son Jesus Christ and by the effectual calling of the Holy Spirit, and we shall partake of the sweet goodness of His love forever and ever, world without end. It is a timeless and eternal love. What awe in the thought! The divine contentment of God Himself shall rest in our hearts as we commune with Him forevermore. What a hope we have! How GREAT IS THE LOVE that the Father has lavished on us! Indeed it shall never cease. Indeed it will take the coming eons of eternity for the love of God to be exhausted upon our heads and in our hearts. **God's love is eternal.**

Eph 2:4-7 - 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. NAS

Ps 103:17

17 But the lovingkindness of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, NAS

Eph 1:4-6 - 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. **In love** 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. NAS

Immutable

Because God never changes, His love never changes.

His love no end nor measure knows, No change can turn its course,

Eternally the same it flows, From one eternal source.

God's love for us was granted in Christ Jesus before the world began. Shall it somehow now take a different form? Will God change His mind? Will the Almighty get tired of loving His blessed Sons and Daughters? Indeed His love is from generation to generation, to our children's children will it endure, and none shall hinder it. God is not a shifting shadow or a wavering man. What He has decided to love, will be swallowed up in the depth of His love, and drowned in the great deep of His kindness forever. He loved you yesterday, He loves you today, He will love you tomorrow. **God's love is immutable.**

James 1:17-18 - Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow. NAS

Num 23:19 - 9 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? NAS
Heb 13:8 - 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever. NAS

Patient

God is slow to anger, He suffers long with mankind, whom He has made.

Think for a moment friends what God sees when He looks down from Heaven. A world full of suffering and pain, killing and hatred; and all at the free choice of mankind. Although there is much good in the world, it is overshadowed by such meaningless grief. Is this what God intended the world to be like. Well, the short answer is yes. Being omniscient and knowing all things, God knew exactly how things would turn out. Being therefore God, does He not have the ability to stop it? Can't He put an end to all of the evil that is in the world? Of course He can, and He will, when He is good and ready. But for now, He waits patiently for His purposes to be accomplished, the great purpose of salvation being chief among them all. Take heed to His word;

Rom 9:22-24 - 22 What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath-prepared for destruction? 23 What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory- 24 even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles? NIV

You see God is aware of all the evil, which men do to one another, and He will indeed do something about it. But think what longsuffering He has toward men when He sees a starving child, or a helpless woman being raped, or a senseless murder, or many other examples of such evil. God is enduring with GREAT PATIENCE all the evil which man does under the sun in order for His purpose to be accomplished. This can be a hard thing to grasp but pay attention to His word;

2 Peter 3:9 - 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. NIV

Ex 34:6-7 - 6 Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; 7 who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations. "NAS

As we see, the Lord waits with great patience for mankind to repent and be saved. He has given mankind free choice in regard to the evil, which he/she commits. And as we "have all sinned and come short of His glory (Rom 3:23)," He is awaiting our repentance, our free choice to turn our backs on evil and embrace Him, who is Love and Holiness and Truth. Indeed this is the reason for His patience, that we would come to repentance:

Rom 2:4 - 4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance? NIV

Just think for a moment friends how God has been patient with you, enduring patiently while you have gone your own way so many times, and violated His love and faithfulness to you. Thank Him today for His tolerance and patience, and ask Him for strength and courage to do the right thing, to love and be patient with others, to forgive and to reach out in His love and kindness to everyone He puts in your path.

1 John 3:18- Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. NIV

Pure and Holy

God,s love is totally pure, absolutely righteous, and untainted by sin. It is Holy.

Because God is pure there are no defects within Him. He is perfect in purity and devoid of anything malicious or unjust. Indeed He is the source of all moral excellency.

1 John 1:5 - God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

God Himself is the definition of Holiness and Purity because in His person is found no sin or malady, but rather He is perfect and totally righteous in all of His ways. Holiness is the beauty that adorns the Triune God. Holiness is the lustre of His Glory.

Psalm 29:2 “Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”

Because God is Holy, He cannot approve or accept the presence of sin. Indeed Holiness is the exact opposite of sin. This is why God requires perfect holiness and perfection from us, because He is holy.

Hab 1:13 - 3 Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves? NIV

This is why the “law of God”(the first five books of the Old Testament, the Torah) is so demanding upon human nature, and no man shall be justified by it. We simply cannot keep the moral law without failing in it at some point.

Rom 7:9-13 - 9 And I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive, and I died; 10 and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; 11 for sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it killed me. 12 So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

Gal 2:16-17 - 16 nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.

God therefore hates sin, He has an abhorrence for sin which we cannot grasp. God’s wrath is said to be “kindled” by sin (Duet 32:22), and the scripture describes God’s terrible hatred and anger towards sin when his wrath breaks out against it.

2 Sam 6:6-8 - 6 When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. 7 The LORD's anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down and he died there beside the ark of God. 8 Then David was angry because the LORD's wrath had broken out against Uzzah, and to this day that place is called Perez Uzzah.

Friends, for one sin Uzzah was struck down before the Lord. For one sin Adam and Eve were banished from the garden of Eden and the whole race of mankind was from that day forward held in bondage to sin and death. For one sin Moses was excluded from Canaan and Annanias and Sapphira were cut off from the land of the living. **Never was the hatred of Divine Holiness towards sin so demonstrated as it was when God’s wrath was poured out on His own sinless Son, who “bore our sins in His body on the tree.”** (1 Peter 2:24)

Since we therefore are not holy and perfect, we have reaped the consequence of death. Now this is why the gospel is so important. The only way we can achieve perfection before God is in His Son, Jesus Christ. In Him we have received moral perfection, and the righteous requirements of God’s holy law have been fully met.

2 Cor 5:20-21 - 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that **we might become the righteousness of God in Him.** NAS

Heb 10:14 - 4 because by one sacrifice **He has made perfect forever** those who are being made holy. NIV

So now because of this great work of redemption, we can now boldly approach the presence of God. Indeed now, God even lives and resides inside our hearts, as the scriptures says, “we are the temple of the Living God.” As we see God in His Holiness

and therefore understand our sinfulness, may we be reminded what a marvelous thing He has done to reconcile us to Himself!

Trustworthy

God is faithful, He is an unfailing Rock in whom we can place our trust.

Because God is infinite, there is no limit to His faithfulness. Oh how we need someone to turn to in our day of affliction. There is nothing to move God, His promise is as sure as the noonday sun.

Ps 36:5 - 5 Thy lovingkindness, O LORD, extends to the heavens,

Thy **faithfulness reaches to the skies**. NAS

When we look around in our world today, very few things appear to be sure. Nations rise and fall, economies thrive and then falter, at times it seems like we can place our trust in nothing. A quote from the beloved AW Pink;

There are seasons in the lives of all when it is not easy, no not even for Christians, to believe that God is faithful. Our faith is sorely tried, our eyes bedimmed with tears, and we can no longer trace the outworkings of His love. Our ears are distracted with the noises of the world, harassed by the atheistic whisperings of Satan, and we can no longer hear the sweet accents of His still small voice.

Cherished plans have been thwarted, friends on whom we relied failed us, a professed brother or sister in Christ has betrayed us. We are staggered. We sought to be faithful to God, and now a dark cloud hides Him from us. We find it difficult, yea, impossible, for carnal reason to harmonize His frowning providence with His gracious promises. Ah, faltering soul, severely tried fellow pilgrim, seek grace to heed Isaiah 50:10, "Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of His servant, that walketh in darkness and have no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon His God."

Friends, we have simply to trust in God. He knows our need, indeed He has made a promise and provision for it long before we were born. In all His relations with His people God is faithful. No one ever trusted God in vain. God is True, He is sure, an immovable Rock, indeed none can stay His hand or say to Him, "What have you done?" Not only does His word abound in illustrations of His fidelity in fulfilling His promises, but it also records numerous examples of His faithfulness in making good His threatenings. You can be sure His word will come to pass. "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and she shall call his name Immanuel."(Isaiah 7:14) Centuries passed and the scripture says again, "When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His son, made of a woman." (Gal 4:4) And "He is faithful who promised!" (Heb 10:23)

Prov 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. NAS

We can place our trust in God because He is Faithful. He will never fail us. The bible is full of His promises and recordings of them being fulfilled again and again. We have need only to trust Him. God promised Abraham a son, and when it appeared that time was up on God to make good, He came to Abraham and Sarah at the ripe old age of 100 and Laughter (Isaac) was born.

Isa 40:31 - 31 But **they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength**; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. KJV

Ps 27:14 - 14 Wait for the LORD; Be strong, and let your heart take courage;
Yes, wait for the LORD. NAS

Isa 30:18 - 18 Therefore **the LORD longs to be gracious to you**, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him. NAS

Friend, you have only to place your trust in God to find your heart at peace. To those who hope in Him, they will not be disappointed. GOD'S LOVE NEVER FAILS! He is faithful!

1 Cor 13:7-8 - 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 **Love never fails**; NAS

Redeeming

God paid a dear price in order to love us.

Consider the following statement from the man of God, Isaiah;

Isa 53:3-5 - He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. NAS

These words describe the passion of Christ, His death and crucifixion for the people of His love. Notice how "He was forsaken of men, despised, and we did not esteem Him." He came for a people who despised Him, who rejected Him, who in their vicious terror, took His life. He came to pay a price for a people who were so steeped in their sin, so blind to their own disease that they brutally murdered the only One who could save them. This is Love. A redeeming love, a powerful love, an unfailing love. Friends, Jesus died for my sin and for yours. I am the reason He was murdered and sacrificed. You are the perpetrator of His death. Indeed, He **bore our sins** in His body, He **carried our sorrows** and was pierced through for **our transgressions**. We were healed by His scourging, and the act that brought us peace, was Jesus taking the wrath of God for our sins upon Himself. Jesus did this willingly.

John 10:14-18 - 14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me- 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father-and I lay down my life for the sheep. 17 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life-only to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." NIV

Jesus laid down His life so that you and I could live. He was "smitten of God" for my evil deeds. He was "crushed" for your sins. There are no words to describe this redeeming love. God came to love us friends, when we were His enemies. The desperately sick killed the doctor who came to heal them. He came to a people who were in rebellion against Him.

Rom 5:8-11 - 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were **still sinners**, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, when we were **God's enemies**, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! NIV

The value of this love cannot be measured. The saints in heaven shall praise God throughout all eternity, and it shall not begin to describe the marvelous love of God our Saviour. But our pleasure it is. Indeed "His praise shall continually be in my mouth."

Friends, ponder this quality of God's love. Would you give the life of your only child for your enemy's pardon? Even those who were in utter rebellion against you? This love leaves me speechless!

1 John 4:10 - 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. NAS

2 Cor 5:21 - 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. KJV

We went astray, He bought us back.

Ps 49:7-9 - 7 No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him-- 8 the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough-- 9 that he should live on forever and not see decay. NIV

2 Cor 5:21 - 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. NAS

Our Responsibility to God's love.

We have an obligation and a responsibility to God's love.

Indeed it is the great commandment which we have received from Him. That we should love. That we should love God and our neighbor.

1 John 4:11 - 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to **love one another**.

1 John 3:23-24 - 23 And this is **His commandment**, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and **love one another**, just as He commanded us. NAS

Friends, can we just go now through our lives having experienced this great love of God, and shut up our well of compassion and love for those around us? Are we still mere men, or are we the children of God? After receiving Christ Jesus as Lord, will we now spurn His authority by withholding in selfishness what He has given us so freely? We cannot. We no longer live our lives for ourselves, but for Him who loved us.

2 Cor 5:14-15 - 14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that **those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them** and was raised again. NIV

Now we might be quick to agree that we have an obligation, but are we truly loving others and giving the love of God freely to those around us? Friends, stop for a moment and ponder these questions;

- What do you live your life for?
- What is it in life that you are pursuing?
- What do you spend your time doing and what is the purpose of it?

An honest answer to these questions will tell you where your treasure is. My earnest prayer is that you live your life to give the love that gave itself for you. That this love would abound in your life to overflowing, and that people would see this love and give glory to God your Father because of it. Indeed this is the purpose of our life and our salvation.

Concerning our obligation to love, heed the teaching of Jesus our Lord;

Matt 5:38-48 - 38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' 39 "But I say to you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 "And if anyone wants to sue you, and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. 41 "And whoever shall force you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 "Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you. 43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' 44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you 45 in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same? 47 "And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do

more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. NAS

Many of these responses to life's situations are hard to accomplish, indeed it is impossible with men. But it is only in reliance upon His power that we can live in this manner. And these are not optional, but rather imperative. These are commandments. For the true Christian, love is not some humanly attained characteristic, but a divine fruit which comes from the indwelling Holy Spirit. Friends, how is the love of God expressed in our life? Are we truly living for Him? Only as we see the love of God manifest in our life can we experience the blessed assurance which comes from knowing Him.

John 13:34-35 - 34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." NAS

1 John 3:14 - 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. NAS

Let your life be a scale by which the love of God is measured. Do you abide in Him, and does His love abide in you? This is how we KNOW that we have passed from death into life! May His love abound in your life, so that others may see it and glorify God!

Our Responsibility to God's love.

What does God's love look like in our lives?

Jesus answers this very important question here in Matthew;

Matt 5:38-48 - 38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' 39 "But I say to you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 "And if anyone wants to sue you, and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. 41 "And whoever shall force you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 "Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you. 43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' 44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you 45 in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same? 47 "And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

He tells us that we are to be perfect in love, even as God is perfect. Our first reaction is to tremble in fear at this statement because we realize that this is a hard thing to attain.

Nevertheless, it is Christ's commandment to us. Friends, would Jesus ask us to do something that was beyond our reach or ability to attain to? Of course He would not. But when we understand what He calls us to, and then we begin to desire to fulfill it, we have made a great stride. Notice how this love says Jesus, is different than the love that the world possesses. The world loves those that love it, it greets those who are its brothers. But the love that He calls us to is different. We are to love those who are evil, who take your coat, and sue you. We are to love even our enemies and those who persecute us. Friends, this is a **Divine Love which does not originate in the human heart** but is a fruit of the Spirit of God abiding in us. So you see, **we can attain this love** if we will allow God to shine through us. This can only happen if we are willing to "lose our life for His sake." If we hold tightly to our so called human rights, we do not allow this divine love to be seen in us. We must be willing to deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow Jesus (Matt 16:24-25). We must be willing to forgive the thief, and walk under the burden of those who force us. We must be willing to love those who hate us and use us for their own gain. In these things the divine love of God is seen in us. This is God's

perfect love. He came into a world of sinners to die for the very ones who killed Him. This is a sacrificial love. It is willing to give up its own selfish desires for the benefit of others, and this out of reverence for God. Heed the words of God through John the beloved;

1 John 3:16-18 - 16 **We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us**; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. NAS

Here John points to the sacrificial love of Christ and calls us to the same. Here John tells us that **our love must take action and be manifest to be real**. It cannot be a mere confession or a good motive, but that it must take form and be seen. If this love is in us, **IT WILL** manifest itself.

Friends, consider your life today, is the love of God being manifested through your actions? I urge you to take a sober look at your life and heed these words of God. This love can be real in our lives, but we must first desire to possess it. We must have a hunger and a thirst for this love. We must have godly passions in our hearts if we want to be like God. Godliness is born out of a desire to be like God. **Our hearts must burn with the fire that is in the heart of Jesus!**

If we are lacking these things today, let us start by asking God to change our hearts and give us these desires. Let us ask of God who gives to all liberally. If you ask the Father of Love to fill your heart with His love, what will you receive my friend?

Matt 7:7-8 - 7 "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. 8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened. NAS

Infinite – Because God's love is infinite, we should have an inexhaustible supply of love for those around us. Our love should imitate God's love, like a father's compassion towards his children.

Eph 4:32-5:2 - 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. 5:1 **Be imitators of God**, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and **live a life of love**, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. NIV

Eternal – Because God's love is eternal, we should decide to love everyone that God puts into our lives in the future beforehand, as well as those that those who in our lives now. We should do all we can to reconcile with anyone who has something against us from the past, as far as it is possible. Our love should endure to those around us, like a strong fortress. If love never fails, at what point should our love cease for those dear people that God has allowed us granted into our lives, including our enemies.

Psa 100:5 - 5 For the LORD is good; His **lovingkindness is everlasting**. And His faithfulness to all generations. NAS

1 Cor 13:7-8 - 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, **endures all things**. 8 **Love never fails**; NAS

Gracious – Because God's love is gracious, we should extend to favor to people which they have not earned. We should love others because God first loved us. **The reason we love is because God loves, not because people earn it.**

Rom 5:8 - 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were yet sinners**, Christ died for us. NAS

Luke 6:35-38 - 35 "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, **expecting nothing in return**; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. 36 "Be merciful, **just as your Father** is merciful. 37 "And do not judge

and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned. NAS

Immutable – Because God’s love never changes, we should be a rock for others to lean on. We should have an unwavering love for all those who God has put into our lives. We should strive to be unchanging and consistent, so that other can rely upon us.

Num 23:19 - 9 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? NAS

Patient - Because God’s love is patient, we also should suffer long with those around us. Remember how God has been patient with us. God changes people over time through many different circumstances in their lives.

Pure and Holy – Because God is pure, we also should be holy in all that we do and say. We are to reflect a perfect God to those around us with a perfect love.

1 Peter 1:22-23 - 22 Now that you have **purified yourselves** by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, **love one another deeply, from the heart.** 23 For you have been born again, NIV

Trustworthy – Because God is faithful, we also should have the utmost integrity. It is our obligation to be faithful to God and to our neighbor.

Redeeming - Because God’s love is redeeming, we should love others with a self-sacrificing love. We must be willing to deny ourselves and give to those in need around us, both spiritually and physically.

We are to live in love;

1 John 4:16- "And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. **God is love.** whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him."