

## God is Love

1 John 4:7-9

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.”

Sam Storms

“The love of God is the benevolent disposition or inclination in God that stirs him to bestow benefits both physical and spiritual upon those created in his image (and is thus in this respect synonymous with grace).”

Hosea 11:1-9

When Israel was a child, I loved him,  
and out of Egypt I called my son.  
<sup>2</sup>The more they were called,  
the more they went away;  
they kept sacrificing to the Baals  
and burning offerings to idols.  
<sup>3</sup>Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk;  
I took them up by their arms,  
but they did not know that I healed them.  
<sup>4</sup>I led them with cords of kindness,<sup>[a]</sup>  
with the bands of love,  
and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws,  
and I bent down to them and fed them.  
<sup>5</sup>They shall not<sup>[b]</sup> return to the land of Egypt,  
but Assyria shall be their king,  
because they have refused to return to me.  
<sup>6</sup>The sword shall rage against their cities,  
consume the bars of their gates,  
and devour them because of their own counsels.  
<sup>7</sup>My people are bent on turning away from me,  
and though they call out to the Most High,  
he shall not raise them up at all.  
<sup>8</sup>*How can I give you up, O Ephraim?  
How can I hand you over, O Israel?  
How can I make you like Admah?  
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?  
My heart recoils within me;*

my compassion grows warm and tender.  
<sup>9</sup> *I will not* execute my burning anger;  
*I will not* again destroy Ephraim;  
for I am God and not a man,  
the Holy One in your midst,  
and I will not come in wrath.

Carl Henry

“Love is not accidental or incidental to God; it is an essential revelation of the divine nature, a fundamental and eternal perfection. His love, like all other divine attributes, reflects the whole of his being in specific actions and relationships.”

JC Ryle

“The love of God is the hardest of all His attributes to speak about...we are trying to comprehend the incomprehensible. It is like trying to take the ocean in your arms, or embrace the atmosphere, or rise to the stars. No one can do it.”

1 John 4:10

“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

Sam Storms

“This love of God, then, is the source or cause of the atoning work of Christ. God does not love people because Christ died for them; Christ died for them because God loved them. The sacrifice of Christ does not procure God’s affection, as if it were necessary, through his sufferings, to extract love from an otherwise stern, unwilling, reluctant deity. On the contrary, God’s love compels the death of Christ and is supremely manifested therein. In a word, the saving love of God is giving. “For God so loved the world, that he *gave* his only Son” (John 3:16a).”

Ephesians 2:4-5

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the *great* love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—”

1 John 3:1

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called the children of God; and so we are.”

J.W. Alexander

“Those who have had the most abiding assurance of God’s love, are those who have been most in meditation on the written assurances of that love.”

1 John 4:7

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.”

1 John 4:12

“No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.”

Ephesians 5:1-2

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

Dwight L. Moody, quoted in Love or Die

“I took up that word “Love”, and I do not know how many weeks I spent studying the passages in which it occurs, *till at last I could not help loving people!* I had been feeding on Love so long that I was anxious to do everybody good I came in contact with. I got full of it. It ran out of my fingers. You take up the subject of love in the Bible! You will get so full of it that all you have got to do is to open your lips, and a flood of the Love of God flows out upon the meeting. There is no use trying to do church work without love. A doctor, a lawyer, may do good work without love, but God’s work cannot be done without love.”