

# FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

## What Is Love?

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We hear so much about LOVE. Really, what is love?

Webster's Thesaurus says as a noun its devotion, attachment, infatuation, esteem, respect, regard, admiration. As a verb it is when you adore, idolize, prize, and treasure.

Webster's Dictionary: A strong affection, warm attachment, a beloved person, unselfish, loyal and benevolent concern for others, affection, attachment, devotion, fondness, passion, like, to value highly, cherish, delight in, appreciate, enjoy, treasure, value, adore, idolize and worship.

We know love according to 1 Corinthians 13.

### 1 Corinthians 13.4-8a, 13 NASB

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, <sup>5</sup>does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, <sup>6</sup>does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; <sup>7</sup>bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup>Love never fails...

<sup>13</sup>But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is **love**.

The Vine Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words talks about love in the following ways:

### Love is deep – God covers every area of love

Agape: The characteristic word of Christianity. Agape love expresses the deep and constant love and interest of a perfect Being towards the unworthy, producing and fostering a reverential love in them toward the Giver, and a practical love towards those who are partakers of the same, and desire to help others to seek the Giver.

### Leviticus 19.18 NIV

<sup>18</sup>“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

### Deuteronomy 6.5 NIV

<sup>5</sup>Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.



## The Attitude of God toward His Son

### John 17.26 NIV

<sup>26</sup> I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

## God's Attitude of God toward the human race, generally

### John 3.16 NIV

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.



### Romans 5.8 NIV

<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

## To us who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ

### John 14.21 NIV

<sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

### John 13.34-35 NIV

<sup>34</sup> "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

## Toward all men

### 1 Thessalonians 3.12 NASB

<sup>12</sup> and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you;

### 1 Corinthians 16.14 NASB

<sup>14</sup> Let all that you do be done in love.

### 2 Peter 1.5-7 NASB

<sup>5</sup> Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, <sup>7</sup> and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.

## To express the essential nature of God

### 1 John 4.8 NASB

<sup>8</sup> The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Love can be known only from the actions it prompts. God's love is seen in the gift of His Son.

## 1 John 4.9-10 NASB

<sup>9</sup> By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup> 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.

It was an exercise of the Divine will in a deliberate choice, in the nature of God Himself.

## Christian love is the fruit of His Spirit in the Christian

### Galatians 5.22 NASB

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Christian love has God for its primary object, and expresses itself first of all in obedience to His commandments.

### John 14.15 NASB

<sup>15</sup> "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

### John 14.21 The Message

<sup>21</sup> "The person who knows my commandments and keeps them, that's who loves me. And the person who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and make myself plain to him."

### John 14.23 NASB

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make Our abode with him.

## Love seeds the welfare of all

### Romans 15.1-2 The Message

<sup>1-2</sup> those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?"

We speak Love over and into the city of Detroit, the God kind of love that is a patient and kind, love that cares about the welfare of all.

