

1 John 4:7-10

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 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. 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.

Loving God with all our heart, soul, and strength does not start with us, it starts with God.

Love is an act of the will, accompanied by emotion, that leads to action on behalf of its object
- Voddie Baucham, *Family Driven Faith*

Deuteronomy 7:6-14

What does being truly known and fully loved do for us?

Secures us

Sustains us

Satisfies us

Psalm 90 - Psalm of Moses
Matthew 24:9-14
Ephesians 3:14-21

“Love without truth is sentimentality; it supports and affirms us but keeps us in denial about our flaws. Truth without love is harshness; it gives us information but in such a way that we cannot really hear it. God's saving love in Christ, however, is marked by both radical truthfulness about who we are and yet also radical, unconditional commitment to us. The merciful commitment strengthens us to see the truth about ourselves and repent. The conviction and repentance moves us to cling to and rest in God's mercy and grace.” — **Timothy Keller, “The Meaning of Marriage”**

Questions for Discussion:

In what places have you seen love presented as an uncontrollable force rather than an act of the will? Think of some examples.

How does considering love as an act of the will clarify the nature of it? Is there an area of your life where you have been failing to love God (obedience) because you have been seeing love as an uncontrollable feeling instead of an act of the will? What does repentance look like for you in this area?

God's love for his people secures us, sustains us, and satisfies us. Which one of these did you most need to hear today and why? Share that with someone. What aspect of God's character is being highlighted to you through this?

3DQ - 3 Discipleship questions: What is God saying to you? What are you going to do about it? How can I help?

Further study: Love in Deuteronomy

From God: 4:37, 7:13, 10:18, 23:5

From people: 10:12, 10:19, 11:1, 11:13, 11:22, 13:3, 15:16, 19:9, 21:15-16, 30:6, 30:1

Resource: <https://bibleproject.com/learn/shema-listen>