

DIGGING DEEPER



God is Love: Experiencing the Perfect Love of God

Feb 15, 2026

At the heart of this message lies a profound truth that many of us may intellectually grasp but struggle to truly experience: God is love. Drawing from 1 John 4:7-19, we're invited to move beyond simply knowing about God's love to actually feeling it transform our hearts. The passage reminds us that 'there is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear'—a principle we can observe in human relationships but often fail to apply to our relationship with God. Just as a child rests without fear on their mother's lap, or as wedding guests witness love through nonverbal cues that transcend words on paper, we're called to experience God's love in ways that go deeper than theological understanding. The beautiful paradox explored here is how God can be both perfectly just and overwhelmingly kind—not contradictory attributes, but complementary aspects of His character. Through the metaphor of metalworking, we discover that God's love must reach a 'melting point' in our lives, fusing our broken pieces together to create something stronger than what we started with. This isn't about earning God's favor or apologizing for our existence; it's about confidently approaching Him as beloved children who belong in His family, welcomed to freely access His presence without hesitation or fear.

Pastor Daniel describes knowing God's love intellectually versus experiencing it deeply

1. in your heart - where would you place yourself on that spectrum and what might help you move deeper?

The sermon uses the metaphor of a child resting on their mother's lap without fear -

3. what fears in your relationship with God might His perfect love need to cast out?

Pastor Daniel mentions that many Christians don't deeply know God's love despite being in church for years - what practices or experiences have helped you move beyond intellectual knowledge to heart knowledge?

- 5.

Paul prays that believers would 'know the love that surpasses knowledge' - how can we pursue understanding something that is beyond our ability to fully comprehend?

- 7.

Using the welding metaphor, where the pieces become stronger than they were originally, how have you experienced God's love making you stronger in areas where you were once broken?

- 9.

How does understanding that God is both just and kind change your perspective on His character, especially when you face consequences for your actions?

- 2.

When you approach God in prayer, do you come apologetically or confidently as family with access to the 'snack cupboard'? What does your approach reveal about how you view His love?

- 4.

How does the wedding analogy illustrate the difference between going through religious motions and genuinely experiencing passionate love for God?

- 6.

The sermon describes God's love as faithful through our failures, with His compassions being new every morning - how does this truth affect the way you handle your own mistakes and shortcomings?

- 8.

If someone at your workplace or in your family asked you to explain God's love based on your personal experience rather than theological knowledge, what would you share?

- 10.



Remember...

"I know that you've heard that God loves you, so you know it intelligently now. But my prayer this morning is that you experience it. I want you to feel it in your heart what you know in your head."