

DIGGING DEEPER



Understanding the Love of Jesus: A Love That Knows No Limits

16 Aug 2026

What does it truly mean to be loved by God when we know the full weight of our own failures? That tension sits at the heart of this message, and it is one most of us carry quietly. Drawing from Paul's famous words in 1 Corinthians 13, we are walked through one of the most complete definitions of love found anywhere in Scripture. Paul describes love as patient, kind, free of jealousy and pride, and enduring through every circumstance. But what makes this passage so striking is the context Paul places it in. He surrounds this definition with a sobering reminder that spiritual gifts, miraculous powers, and even great sacrifice mean nothing without love at their core. The message challenges us to ask whether the things we pursue in our faith life are rooted in genuine love or in something that quietly draws glory away from God. As we sit with that question, we are invited into a deeper understanding of why love, not power or knowledge, is called the greatest of all things. This is not merely a theological point. It is a call to examine the foundation of everything we do in our walk with God.

1. Paul describes love as the greatest gift and the best way of life, surpassing even miraculous spiritual gifts -- in what ways do you find it difficult to prioritize love over visible or impressive acts of service?

2. The sermon reflects on how God loves us individually and personally, even knowing our failures -- how does the idea that God chose you before you chose him change the way you understand your relationship with him?

3. Jesus commands his followers to love their enemies and pray for those who persecute them -- who in your life has been the hardest person to love, and what would it look like practically to pray for them?

4. Paul warns against stealing God's glory when operating in spiritual gifts, suggesting that love without humility becomes nothing more than noise -- can you think of a time when you or someone you observed allowed gifting or recognition to overshadow genuine love?

5. The sermon draws a connection between obedience and love, with Jesus saying that those who love him will obey his commandments -- do you see obedience as an expression of love or as a burden, and what shapes that perception for you?

6. John writes in 1 John 4 that perfect love expels all fear, yet many believers still live with fear of judgment or punishment -- what do you think prevents people from fully experiencing the perfect love that God offers?

7. Dale shared a deeply personal moment where God revealed to him the name 'man of tears,' illustrating how intimately God knows each person -- how comfortable are you with the idea of God knowing you that completely, and what emotions does that stir in you?

8. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13 that love never keeps a record of wrongs -- how does holding onto past hurts affect your ability to love others as Christ loves you, and what steps might help you release that record?

9. The sermon emphasizes that God's love extends to all people, including those who have not yet accepted it, and calls believers to pray for those outside the faith -- how does understanding the universality of God's love shape the way you interact with people who seem far from him?

10. Paul concludes 1 Corinthians 13 by saying that faith, hope, and love will last forever, with love being the greatest -- if love is the one thing that endures into eternity, how should that reality reshape the priorities and decisions you make in your daily life?

Remember...

"Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good."