

# DG Guide: Attributes of God

## #7 - Justice & Righteousness

### Opening Prayer

Begin by asking someone to pray, thanking God for His amazing love and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and deepen your understanding.

### Ice Breaker

Question: When you hear the word "love," what's the first thing that comes to mind? How has your understanding of love changed over the years?

### Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. This kind of love comes from God himself - God's love is not something we can generate on our own; it flows from His nature and is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.
  2. This kind of love is different from human love - God's love is eternal (not temporary), all-powerful (not limited), selfless (not transactional), and holy (not self-serving).
  3. This kind of love is at the heart of the gospel - The cross demonstrates God's patient, kind, sacrificial love in action, showing us what true love really looks like.
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### Discussion Questions

#### Understanding God's Love

1. In the sermon, Harald mentioned that we often misunderstand love. What are some common misconceptions about God's love that you've encountered or believed yourself?
2. Read 1 John 4:7-10. What does it mean that "love is from God" and that we can only love because "He first loved us"? How does this challenge our natural understanding of love?
3. Harald contrasted God's eternal love with our temporary love. Can you think of examples where human love has conditions or limits? How is God's love different?

#### Experiencing God's Love

4. Read Ephesians 3:17-19. Paul prays that believers would comprehend the "length and width and height and depth" of God's love. Why do you think we need to continually grow in understanding God's love even after we become Christians?

5. The sermon stated: "From what country do you get this kind of love?" Share a time when you experienced God's love in a way that surprised you or seemed "otherworldly."
6. Romans 5:5 says God's love "has been abundantly poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit." How have you experienced this reality in your own life? What difference has it made?

## Living Out God's Love

7. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and substitute "Jesus" for "love" as suggested in the sermon. Now read it again with your own name. Where do you see the biggest gap? What would it look like for God's love to grow in that area of your life?
8. The sermon mentioned that the early church was known by their distinctive love: "See how they love one another." What would it look like for our group/church to be known for this kind of love today?
9. Jesus commands us to "love your enemies" (Matthew 5:43-48). Who is difficult for you to love right now? How might God be calling you to show His kind of love to that person?
10. Harald cautioned against setting too many boundaries. How do we balance healthy boundaries with being available for God's love to flow through us to others?

## Practical Applications

## This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

### Option 1: Meditate on God's Love

- Spend 10 minutes each day this week reading and reflecting on 1 John 4:7-21
- Journal about what God reveals to you about His love
- Share your insights with the group next week

### Option 2: Practice Sacrificial Love

- Identify someone in your life who is difficult to love or who you've been avoiding
- Pray daily for them, asking God to help you see them through His eyes
- Take one concrete action to show them God's love this week

### Option 3: Study God's Love in Action

- Read through one of the Gospels this week, noting every time Jesus demonstrates love
- Write down specific ways Jesus showed patient, kind, selfless love
- Ask God to help you imitate one of those examples

### Option 4: Share God's Love

- Think of someone who doesn't know Jesus
- Pray for them daily, asking God to reveal His love to them
- Look for an opportunity to share your testimony of how God's love changed your life

## Reflection Questions for Personal Time

- In what ways have I been trying to earn God's love rather than receiving it as a gift?
- Where am I most resistant to letting God's love transform me?
- What "petty loves" (as C.S. Lewis mentioned) need to be displaced by God's greater love?
- How can I better demonstrate God's patient, kind, sacrificial love in my daily relationships?

## Prayer Time

Pray together using these prompts:

1. Thanksgiving: Thank God for specific ways He has shown His love to you
2. Confession: Confess areas where you've failed to love as God loves
3. Petition: Pray Ephesians 3:17-19 for each other - that you would be rooted and grounded in love and know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge
4. Intercession: Pray for the people you identified as difficult to love, asking God to help you see them through His eyes

## Closing Thought

*"Here is love, vast as the ocean, loving kindness as the flood, when the prince of life, our ransom, shed for us his precious blood."*

Take a moment of silence to let this truth sink in: God's love for you is vast, eternal, powerful, and unchanging. You cannot earn it, lose it, or exhaust it. Let that truth change how you live this week.

## For Next Week

- Complete your chosen practical application
- Be prepared to share one way you experienced or demonstrated God's love this week
- Read ahead if your group is continuing through the sermon series on God's attributes

## Questions only:

1. How does understanding that love comes from God himself rather than from our own hearts change the way we approach loving difficult people in our lives?
2. In what ways have you experienced the difference between human love and God's agape love, and how has that shaped your understanding of relationships?
3. The sermon mentions that God's love is eternal while human love is often temporary. What practical steps can we take to align our love more closely with God's unchanging love?
4. How does the revelation that God's love is always seeking our best without hidden agendas challenge our tendency toward transactional relationships?
5. Paul prays in Ephesians 3 that believers would comprehend the length, width, height, and depth of Christ's love. What might it look like to grow deeper in experiencing this love in your daily life?
6. The early church was known by the statement 'see how they love one another.' What would need to change in our church communities today for this to be said about us?
7. How does recognizing that God's love is holy and pure, yet still extended to us while we were sinners, impact your understanding of grace and forgiveness?
8. The sermon states that God's love is not just emotional but active, demonstrated through sending His Son. How should this understanding of active love shape the way we demonstrate love to others?
9. In what areas of your life have you set boundaries that might be limiting God's love from flowing through you to others, and how can you discern between healthy boundaries and barriers to love?
10. Reflecting on 1 Corinthians 13 with Jesus' name inserted, which characteristic of love do you find most challenging to embody, and what would it mean to ask God to develop that in you?