

GOD PURSUES A LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU

*The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness."*

Jeremiah 31:3 (NIV)

❖ You Are Pursued by Love:

*This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

1 John 4:10 (NIV)

1. God's desire is to have an on-going PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP with us.

*"Look! I have been standing at the door, and I am constantly knocking. If anyone hears me calling him and opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him and he with me."*

Revelation 3:20 (LB)

2. God knows that when we put Him FIRST everything else falls into PLACE.

*"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."*

John 14:21 (NIV)

3. When we "love God first" He promises to never LEAVE US.

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?...<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, <sup>39</sup>neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Romans 8:35, 37-39 (NIV)

❖ Seeing God's Love in Action:

*Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup>A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. <sup>3</sup>He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. <sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup>So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. <sup>7</sup>All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." <sup>8</sup>But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."*

Luke 19:1-10 (NIV)

1. God is always at WORK around you.  
*Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. (vs 1)*
2. God PURSUES a continuing love relationship with you.  
*A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. (vs 2)*
3. God INVITES you to join Him in His work.  
*When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." (vs 5)*
4. God SPEAKS to you by the Holy Spirit, His Word, prayer, church, and circumstances.  
*So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." (vs 6-7)*
5. God's invitation to work with Him leads to a CRISIS of belief.  
*But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor..." (vs 8a)*
6. You must make MAJOR ADJUSTMENTS to join God in what He is doing.  
*"... and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." (vs 8b)*
7. You will come to know God by experience as you OBEY Him and He works in you.  
*Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." (vs. 9-10)*

❖ Making God's Love Personal for You:

*This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins...<sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us.*

1 John 4:9-10, 19 (NIV)

1. Choose to put God in FIRST PLACE in your life.  
*Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment."*  
Matthew 22:37-38 (NIV)
2. Make a decision to be OBEDIENT to God's Word no matter what.  
*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup>in all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make your paths straight. <sup>7</sup>Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.*  
Proverbs 3:5-7 (NIV)
3. Establish a plan to SPEND TIME with God every day.  
*"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."*  
John 14:21 (NIV)

4. Discover God's GIFTS in you and USE them.

*"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name."*

John 15:16 (NIV)

*"For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Mark 10:45 (NIV)