

Loved: Crafted by Love

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1. GOD IS LOVE

1.1. God doesn't just love is, He is love.

1 John 4:7-8 & 16 (TPT) "Those who are loved by God, let his love continually pour from you to one another, because God is love. Everyone who loves is fathered by God and experiences an intimate knowledge of him. The one who doesn't love has yet to know God, for God is love. We have come into an intimate experience with God's love, and we trust in the love he has for us. God is love! Those who are living in love are living in God, and God lives through them."

1.2. God doesn't give love because we deserve it or pay for it. God loves, because He is love.

Matthew 5:43-45 (NLV) "You have heard that it has been said, 'You must love your neighbour and hate those who hate you.' But I tell you, love those who hate you. Pray for those who do bad things to you and who make it hard for you. Then you may be the sons of your Father Who is in heaven. His sun shines on bad people and on good people. He sends rain on those who are right with God and on those who are not right with God."

2. HOW THE WORLD LOVES VS. HOW GOD LOVES:

2.1. Our love is conditional; God's love is unconditional.

Romans 8:38-39 (TPT) "So now I live with the confidence that there is nothing in the universe with the power to separate us from God's love. I'm convinced that his love will triumph over death, life's troubles, fallen angels, or dark rulers in the heavens. There is nothing in our present or future circumstances that can weaken his love. There is no power above us or beneath us—no power that could ever be found in the universe that can distance us from God's passionate love, which is lavished upon us through our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One! "

Isaiah 54:10 (ESV) "For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you."

2.2. Our love is based on our feelings and emotions. God's love is stable because it is His essence. It is who He is. It doesn't fluctuate with every fleeting emotion.

Romans 5:8 (VOICE) “But think about this: while we were wasting our lives in sin, God revealed His powerful love to us in a tangible display—the Anointed One died for us.”

2.3. Our love is selfish; God’s love is selfless.

Romans 5:6-8 (TPT) “For when the time was right, the Anointed One came and died to demonstrate his love for sinners who were entirely helpless, weak, and powerless to save themselves. Now, who of us would dare to die for the sake of a wicked person? We can all understand if someone was willing to die for a truly noble person. But Christ proved God’s passionate love for us by dying in our place while we were still lost and ungodly!”

2.4. Our love is temporary; God’s love is eternal.

Jeremiah 31:3 (NIV) “The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.”

Psalms 136:1 (TPT) “Let everyone thank God, for he is good, and he is easy to please! His tender love for us continues on forever!”

2.5. We love with barriers of protection. God loved us so much He sent His son to be ridiculed, tortured and killed by and for us. God’s love is Vulnerable.

John 3:16 (VOICE) “For God expressed His love for the world in this way: He gave His only Son so that whoever believes in Him will not face everlasting destruction, but will have everlasting life.”

Philippians 2:6-8 (TPT) “He existed in the form of God, yet he gave no thought to seizing equality with God as his supreme prize. Instead he emptied himself of his outward glory by reducing himself to the form of a lowly servant. He became human! He humbled himself and became vulnerable, choosing to be revealed as a man and was obedient. He was a perfect example, even in his death—a criminal’s death by crucifixion!”

3. ABIDING IN GOD’S LOVE

3.1. If we abide in God, we will also be abiding in His love.

3.2. If we abide in His love, our love will look like the love spoken about in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (TPT) “Love is large and incredibly patient. Love is gentle and consistently kind to all. It refuses to be jealous when blessing comes to someone else. Love does not brag about its achievements nor inflate its own importance. Love does not traffic in shame and disrespect, nor selfishly seek its own honour. Love is not easily irritated or quick to take offense. Love joyfully celebrates honesty and finds no delight in what is wrong. Love is a safe place of shelter, for it never stops believing the best for others. Love never takes failure as defeat, for it never gives up.”

Sermon Discussion Guide

OPEN WITH PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and replace the word “love” with your own name.
2. Is this scripture an accurate description of you love?
3. In which of the areas, mentioned in the notes, is the way you love different from the way God loves?