

More GOD Please

God is Love

UPDATE ON ECUADOR – Santa Elena, Pueblo Nuevo & Santo Domingo
1 John 4:19 - *We love because God first loved us.*

▶ At its core, love is _____ - _____ for the _____ of others

WHAT IS LOVE?

▶ It's easier to describe than define (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

▫ 1 John 4:8 - *God is love*

▶ **WARNING:** The unconditional love of God is quite often misunderstood

▫ Galatians 6:7; John 3:16 & 3:36

GOD DOES NOT MAKE ROBOTS

(Song of Solomon 8:6-7; Romans 8:35,37-39)

▶ In His great love, He has given us the dangerous gift of free will

PRINCIPLE: God's love is _____, BUT for you to fully receive its _____, there are _____

A. God's love is _____ (Jeremiah 31:3; 1 John 4:10; Romans 5:8)

B. But for you and I to fully receive the _____ of God's love, there are certain _____

BIBLE PROJECT VIDEO – GOD'S KHESED (Loyal Love)

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT US? (HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?)

▶ **KEY CONCEPT:** God wants you to _____ His love.

A. _____ with your whole being (Mark 12:30)

• Love for God = _____ (1 John 5:3; John 14:15)

B. _____ as yourself (Mark 12:31)

• Brother & sisters in Christ as well as our neighbors (1 John 2:3-6; 4:11-12, 20-21)

• Even our enemies (Matthew 5:44-45)

Creekside Events



More GOD Please

LifeGroup Discussion Questions—God is Love

Prayer

Go around your group and ask each person the name of one person they are thankful for this week. Pray gratitude over the lives of those who have impacted you.

My Story

Do you remember your first crush? What's one embarrassing thing you did to try to get or keep their attention?

Digging Deep

1) **Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.** These verses are a description (rather than a definition) of love. Create two columns to better understand what love is... and is not. We'll get you started!

Love is patient
Love is kind

Love does not envy
Love does not boast
Love is not...
Love does not...
Love is not...
Love is not...
Love does not keep...
Love does not delight...

Love rejoices with...
Love always...
Love always...
Love always...
Love always...
Love never...

2) Go back over this list now and consider how God has shown this kind of love to you personally. How does that make you feel about your God?

3) It was stated in Sunday's message, that whereas human love often sacrifices other moral virtues (truth, justice, purity/righteousness), God's love never behaves in this manner. Going back over the various attributes of God dealt with in this MORE GOD PLEASE sermon series (God is personal, knowable, holy, infinite, all-knowing, ever-present, all-powerful, sovereign, good, severe, just, merciful, forgiving, unchanging), how do you think these various divine attributes mix and relate to each other? How can God be both loving and just at the same time?

4) **Read John 13:12-14 and 34-35.** At its core, love is self-giving for the benefit of others. What makes a heart of servitude so important to displaying genuine love? On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your current ability to love? Share ideas on how you could increase this score.

Digging Even Deeper

5) **Read 1 John 4:8.** God IS love. God is also truthful, just, and holy. God never compromises one of His attributes for another. Discuss briefly how these attributes of God perfectly come together at the cross of Jesus Christ.

6) God doesn't make robots. God has given you the power to choose to either love Him or reject Him... obey Him or go your own way. Why is it so important to God that you CHOOSE to love Him back?

7) **Read Mark 12:28-31 and 1 John 4:16.** As Christ-followers, we are **COMMAND-ED** to love God and to subsequently love other people around us. How does our love and worship for God act as a starting point to then allow us to pour out love to one another? In other words, how does our upward love encourage or enable our side-by-side love toward other humans?

Taking it Home

8) The Bible commonly describes God's love using the Hebrew word "Khesed," meaning "loyal love" or "promise-keeping covenant love." God's love is unconditional toward us, but we can only fully experience the benefits of this love when we choose to abide in Christ. How can you better display a "loyal" love to God through obedience to Him?

9) The way we showcase God's love is by becoming channels of His love toward one another in the Church, and then to the world, and even toward enemies. In what way this upcoming week, can you choose to be a channel of love toward someone who may not be very "lovable?"

10) Extra Credit: **Read 1 John 2:15-17.** Why do you think God is so adamant about His children not loving the world?

Praying Together

We all stand on the sacred ground of God's love. Pray for each other that we would have a better grasp on His great love. Pray also that we might all become more effective channels of God's love to those around us.