

Main Idea: God's love for us is captivating and compelling in hopes that we will respond.

Love – A Misunderstood Concept

There is so much confusion in the culture regarding love. In our culture we love Country Music and Ice Cream. At the same time, we love our family and friends. We Love the "idea" of love but too often settle for sex. In our rush to sex we create counterfeit intimacy and build ignorant love.

To Love and Be Loved

Psychologists tell us that we are all born with a capacity to love and a need to be loved. We have love to give, and we want love in return. God has an eternal capacity to love and no need to receive any in return. God created you to love because He wants your love, not because He needs it. This is perfect love.

Most Well-Known

It is no accident that the all-time famous, most-often quoted verse in the Bible is a verse about the love of God. According to John 3:16, God's love is 1. UNCONDITIONAL – "...God so loved the world..."; 2. SACRIFICIAL – "...that He gave..." 3. VALUABLE – "...His one and only..." Wait. There's more...

4. PERSONABLE – "...Son..."

God's love is personable because it was revealed through a person – Jesus Christ – in a language that everyone can understand. That makes God's love materialize. That makes it personable. On the other hand, His love is personable because it is directed at a person – you.

5. ACCESSIBLE – "...whoever believes in Him..."

God has come down to our level. Not in the sense that He has lessened His holiness or lowered His standards. But only in the sense that He has made His love accessible to the average, ordinary person like me and like you. He is not a distant God who loves us only from some mystical, faraway place that is completely removed from us. Rather He has entered into our world and He longs to enter into our lives.

6. NONJUDGMENTAL – "...should not perish..."

God's goal in sending his Son from heaven to earth was not condemn you or to show you how bad you are, how unworthy you are or how hopeless you are. God's only desire in sending his Son was to demonstrate His great love for you and to draw you into a love relationship with Himself.

7. ADVANTAGEOUS – "...but have eternal life..."

There is a clear advantage in responding to God's love. Jesus promises life abundant with the promise of life eternal. Why wouldn't everyone want to respond?

Family Night Big idea – Read 1Corinthians 13:1-13

- Elementary School – Ask, "If I can do great things but do not love others, what am I like (vv.1-3)? What does love always do (v.7)? What is even greater than faith and hope (v.13)? Who do you love?"
- Middle/ High School – Ask, "Read vv.4-8 again and insert your name for the word 'love.' How does that make you feel? How does this passage challenge your idea of love? How does your love differ from the love described here?"

Prayer: "Heavenly Father, our family wants to love others with the kind of love You have for us. Help us. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Meets this Wednesday, September 17th.

Gravity: Today in both services.

Today's Songs

God So Loved.....We the Kingdom

Build My Life.....Pat Barrett

I Know a Name.....Brandon Lake

PlusONE

Check out the PlusONE Pamphlet you were handed at the door and get started today!

Kenya Christmas 2025 Donations

Thank you for your generosity!

KidsJAM Game Night

Wednesday, Sept. 17. Sign up in KidsJAM.

Savannah Bananas

If you purchased a ticket from the church, remember the game is October 2nd.

Velocity Ski Trip

Time to sign up online for Ski Trip on January 16-19, 2026.