

**PLAYLIST OF THE DECADES 1990's September 23, 2018**

*Look into my eyes; You will see; What you mean to me; Search your heart; Search your soul; And when you find me there, you'll search no more; Don't tell me it's not worth tryin' for; You can't tell me it's not worth dyin' for; You know it's true; Everything I do; I do it for you*

*Look into your heart; You will find; There's nothin' there to hide; Take me as I am; Take my life; I would give it all, I would sacrifice; Don't tell me it's not worth fightin' for; I can't help it, there's nothin' I want more  
You know it's true; Everything **I do**; **I do** it for you*

*What has God **done** for you? How much does He really love you?*

**I want to pray this scripture over you...**

**Ephesians 3:17b** ...Your roots will grow down into God's love & keep you strong. <sup>18</sup> May you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, & how deep His love is. <sup>19</sup> May you experience the love of Christ, though it's too great to understand fully. Then you'll be made complete with all the fullness of life & power that comes from God. (Amen)

*Fall of man's relationship, Jesus becomes the reconciler; bridges the gap*

*Here comes Jesus!! He's coming after us! He's making a way.*

**Luke 2:10** ...the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" "I bring you good news that'll bring great joy to all people.<sup>11</sup> The Savior; the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today...

**John 3:16** This is how God loved the world: He gave His one & only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him.

**John 10:10b** ...My purpose is to give them a rich & satisfying life.<sup>11</sup> "I'm the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices His life for the sheep.

**John 15:9** *I've loved you* even as the Father has loved me. Remain in **My love...** <sup>12</sup> ...Love each other in the same way *I've loved you*. <sup>13</sup> There's no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> **You're my friends** if you do

what I command. 15 I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now **you're My friends** since I've told you everything the Father told Me 16 You didn't choose Me. **I chose you...**

*God doesn't just love; His nature & essence are love. Love permeates His very being & infuses all His other attributes. "God is love."*

**1 Timothy 2:4** (God) who wants everyone to be saved & to understand the truth. 5 There's one God & one Mediator who can reconcile God & humanity—**the man Jesus**. 6 He gave His life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time

*God's love is personal. He knows each of us individually & loves us personally.*

**Romans 5:2** ...since we've been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus has done for us. 2 Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, & we confidently & joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. **5b...** We know how dearly God loves us, because He's given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love. 6 When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time & died for us sinners. 7 Most people wouldn't be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might be willing to die for a person who's especially good. 8 God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. 9 Since we've been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, He'll certainly save us from God's condemnation 10 Since our friendship with God was restored by the death of His Son while we were still His enemies, we'll certainly be saved through the life of His Son. 11 Now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

*A relation experience with God's love sets Christianity apart from religions*

**Romans 8:1** There's no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. 2 Because you belong to Him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. 3 The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law couldn't do. He sent His own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. In that body

God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving His Son as a sacrifice for our sins. 4 He did this so the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us...

**10** Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you've been made right with God. **11** The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. Just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, He'll give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you...

**14** For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. **15** So you've not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when He adopted you as His own children. Now we call Him, "Abba, Father." **16** For His Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we're God's children. **17** Since we're His children, we're His heirs. In fact, together with Christ we're heirs of God's glory...

**32** Since He didn't spare even His own Son but gave Him up for us all won't He also give us everything else? **33** Who dares accuse us, whom God has chosen for His own? No one, for God Himself has given us right standing with Himself. **34** Who then will condemn us? No one, for Christ Jesus died for us & was raised to life for us, & He's sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us. **35** Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean He no longer loves us if we have trouble, calamity, are persecuted, hungry, destitute, in danger, or threatened with death? **36** The Scriptures say, "For your sake we're killed every day; we're being slaughtered like sheep." **37** No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. **38** And I'm convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. **39** No power in the sky above or in the earth below; indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*God's love isn't sappy or sentimental feelings. God's love is self-sacrifice.*

**1 John 4:8b...for God is love**. **9** God showed how much He loved us by sending His only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. **10** This is real love; not that we loved God, but that He loved us & sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. **11** Friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. **12** No one's ever seen God. But if we love each other, God

lives in us, & His love is brought to full expression in us. 13 God's given us His Spirit as proof that we live in Him & He in us. 14 We've seen with our own eyes & now testify that the Father sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them & they live in God. 16 We know how much God loves us, & we've put our trust in His love. God is love, & all who live in love live in God & God lives in them. 17 As we live in God our love grows more perfect. We'll not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face Him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world 18 Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we're afraid, it's for fear of punishment, & this shows that we've not fully experienced His perfect love. 19 We love each other because He loved us first.

#### **4 Ways That the Depth of Christ's Love Is Revealed**

**\*1, By what it cost Him.** He left heaven; took on human nature so He could be hungry, get weary, suffer & die. Jesus needed a human back for a place to be scourged. He needed a brow & skull as a place for the thorns. Cheeks for Judas' kiss & soldiers' spit. Hands & feet for spikes. A side as a place for the sword to pierce. He needed a brain & a spinal cord so He could feel the entire excruciating death—for you.

*Jesus' death was one of the worst kinds of torture devised for pain.*

**Ephesians 5:2** Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. **He loved us and offered Himself as a sacrifice for us...**

*Don't breeze over those words. His love is great & His sacrifice was horrendous.*

**\*2, By how little we deserve it.** *God doesn't love us because we're lovable.* He loved us in spite of our unholiness. The more undeserving we are, the more amazing & deeper His love is for us.

**Ephesians 2:4** God's so rich in mercy & He loved us so much, 5 even though we were dead because of our sins He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead. It's only by God's grace that you've been saved! 6 He raised us from the dead along with Christ & seated us with Him in the heavenly realms because we're united with Jesus. 7 God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of His grace & kindness toward us, as shown in all He's done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. 8 God saved you by His grace when you

believed. You can't take credit for this; it's a gift from God. 9 Salvation isn't a reward for the good things we've done, so none of us can boast about it. 10 We're God's masterpiece. He's created us anew in Christ Jesus...

**\*3, By the greatness of the benefits we receive.** God's love is deep. God's love is immeasurable. God's love is...

**1 Corinthians 13:4** Love is patient & kind. Love isn't jealous, boastful, proud or rude. It doesn't demand its own way. It isn't irritable, & it keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It doesn't rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, & endures through every circumstance.

**\*4, By the freedom with which He loves us.** If Jesus does good things for us because God makes Him, then His love isn't deep. Love is deep in proportion to its liberty. God's love is free & willing. He was the Son of God. His life was of infinite value. With this life Jesus went to the cross for you. This is how much it cost to cover our sins against the holiness of God. He paid it willingly & freely.

**Titus 3:4** When God our Savior revealed His kindness & love, 5 He saved us, not because of the righteous things we'd done, but because of His mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth & new life through the Holy Spirit. 6 He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. 7 Because of His grace He made us right in His sight & gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.

### **How Personally Should We Take This Demonstration of Love?**

**Galatians 2:20** My old self's been crucified with Christ. It's no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting (by faith) in the Son of God, who loved me & gave Himself for me.

**Jesus is calling** you this morning, to experience the depths of the love of Christ for you. To believe the love that He has for you. And say with Paul, "The life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me & gave Himself for me.