

the season of advent

LOVE



Outline:

Love is Permanent

Love is Radical

Love is Specific

Applying Love



**Love: To Treat Something With
Eternal Significance**



Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.



Love is Eternal.

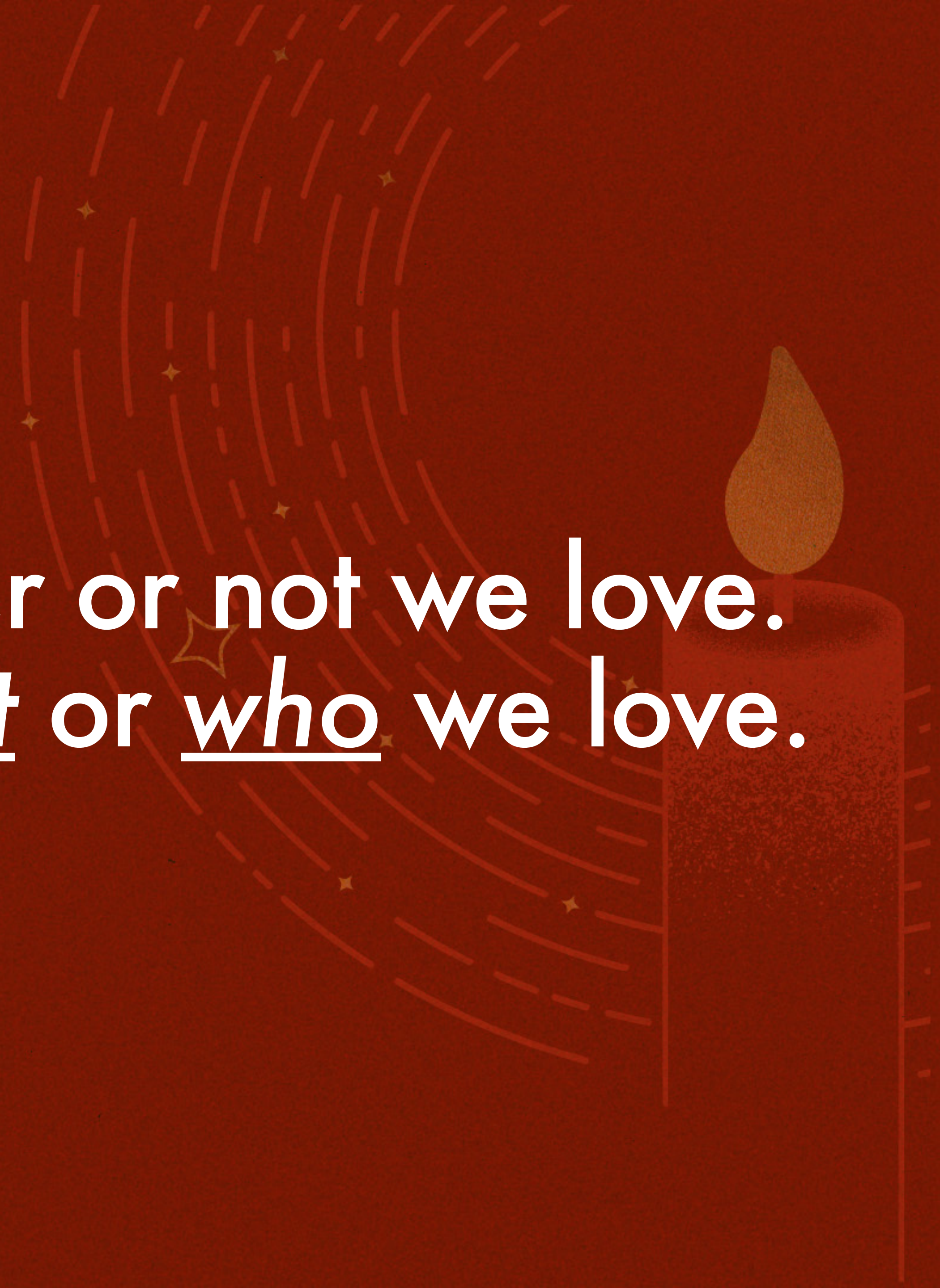
(8-10) This is not God's Plan B; love was always God's intent in creating us.

(11-12) Love is matured through a deepened relationship with Jesus.

(13) If our faith and hope are not leading us to God's love, our faith and hope is meaningless.



We cannot chose whether or not we love.
We can only choose what or who we love.



“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.



Matthew 5:43-48

Love is Radical.

(43-47) Loving our enemies is the love that separates us from the world's love and defines us as children of God.

(48) We are held to God's standard, and God's standard is love.



We either love our enemies
or we don't love at all.



Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.



Love is Specific.

(15) Love of this world is diametrically opposed to loving God.

(16) This world and the things in it are not made to handle eternity, so don't let your love tie yourself to it.

(17) Love is rooted specifically in the will of God reveled to us through his Word.





If our love is not shaped by the Word of God,
our love will be shaped by this world.

Applying Love

1. Love Directs: What we love leads us, so chose wisely.
2. Love Protects: Despite our many failures, when we try to love like Christ, we abound in his mercy and grace.



