

## God Is What?! (His Attributes)

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### Love, He Is

This is a series on the attributes of God. We have been answering the question: God is what?

- These help us understand who God is and how He acts.
  1. Let me remind you an attribute is not something God has, it is something God **is**.
    - Remember: misconceptions about who God is are lack **cracks** in foundations – sooner or later, your Christian practices, your beliefs, or your standards will fall if you don't have a right concept of who God is.
    - All of God's attributes are a **foundation** for God's love.
      - God's love is **infinite**.
      - God's love is **eternal**.
      - God's love is **all-powerful**.
      - God's love is **all-knowing**.
      - God's love is **all-present**.
      - God's love is **unchanging**.
      - God's love is **pure**.
    - God not only loves → He is **love**.

### **1 John 4:7-8**

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Now, if you are not born again, knowing God, you can't love so an **unbeliever** cannot love.

### **1 John 4:9-10**

<sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

"Propitiation" → atonement – **payment**

2. God sent His Son to be the **payment** for our sins.

### **1 John 4:11**

<sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

### **1 John 4:12a**

<sup>12</sup>No one has seen God at any time...

- This statement doesn't seem to match this passage.

### **1 John 4:12**

<sup>12</sup>No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

- If we love one another:
  - God **abides** in us.
  - His love is **perfected** in us.

Verse 16 will change your life:

**1 John 4:16a**

<sup>16</sup> And we have known and believed the love that God has for us...

**1 John 4:16b**

<sup>16</sup> ... God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

Verse 17 – this is what happens when love is perfected in us:

**1 John 4:17:** <sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

**1 John 4:18:** <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

The world tells you to be **afraid** of love.

- There is **no fear** in love
- Perfect love **casts out** fear
- Fear involves **torment**

**1 John 4:18-19**

<sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. <sup>19</sup> We love Him because He first loved us.

Remember verse 12 – no one has seen God - verses 20-21 explain:

**1 John 4:20** – God doesn't beat around the bush  
<sup>20</sup>If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

**1 John 4:21**

<sup>21</sup>And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also.

Hollywood has given us a definition of love.

The bible tells us who and what love is:

A. Love is a **choice**.

Scripture says: "God loved us before we loved Him"

God **chose** to love us.

3. You don't have the feeling and then you choose to love, rather, you choose to love **then** you get the feeling.
- Emotions are to **follow** your will; not your will follow your emotions.
4. If your will follows your emotions, then you are in trouble because then you will only do what you **feel** like doing.
5. Love is a **choice** and you don't fall in and out of love.

Hollywood says: love is something you don't have any control over.

Here is the truth: You may wake up one morning and feel like you're not in love and make a choice based on your **feelings** and ruin your life.

**Matthew 22:36-40**

<sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup> This is *the* first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup> And *the* second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

- The New Testament was being written at this time so Jesus was talking about the **whole** Bible at the time.

Genesis – Deuteronomy = **law**

Joshua – Malachi = **prophets**

Jesus said I can sum up the whole Bible – love **God** and love your **neighbor**.

Let's pause here, and prove something: I said love is a choice, Jesus shows us this:

6. Jesus said, you are **commanded** to love God and love your neighbor.

Tell me, how could God command us if love is an emotion we have no control over?

\*\* In today's culture, we don't want to hear the word, commanded.

God **commands** you to love Him!!

If you don't you are **breaking** His commandment.

Again, the Bible says to love the Lord your God with all your heart, your mind, your soul, and your strength, and your neighbor as yourself.

Love is a **choice** and you have **control** over it.

People say – well, I don't feel like it.

Even if you don't feel like it:

- It's the right thing to do to love your **spouse**.
- It's the right thing to do to lay your life down for your **family**.

When you love something, you **invest** your time, resources, and your emotions.

- If a man loves golf, he **invests** into it.
- If a woman loves her house, she **invests** into it; she invests her time, resources, and emotions.

Church: if you don't feel like it, then there is something wrong with your **commitment**.

Do you know why some invest more into their children than they do their marriage?

Answer: Their children are part of them (flesh and blood) and they love **themselves** more than their spouse.

You are **commanded** to love! If you don't, you're **selfish** – the Bible says.

This brings me to my second point:

B. Love is **unselfish**.