

# Knowing and Relying on God's Love

**1 John 4:7-16**

## What is love?

True love is more than a strong feeling. Love is a **choice** followed by **action**. True love is a matter of our will and not our emotions.

**1 John 3:18** ... *let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.*

## 1. God is the source of love.

**1 John 4:7a** ...*let us love one another, for love comes from God...*

Compassion and mercy reveals God's character.

**Psalm 145:8** *The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy.*

Mercy and compassion means to love tenderly, to pity, to show mercy, and to be full of eager yearning for the object loved.

**2 Corinthians 1:3** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.*

**Psalm 145:9** *The Lord is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.*

Some of God's *tender mercies* are found in;

**Psalm 103:1-4**

## 2. Jesus is the expression of God's love.

**John 14:9b** *Jesus said to him, ... He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?*

Jesus is God's love in action and attitude and the heartbeat of God toward us

**Matthew 14:13-14** *When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. 14: And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.*

**1 John 4:9-10**

To know God's love is to know **Jesus**. Jesus is touched with our struggles. He cares. Jesus is God's **character** revealed.

God allowed Jesus to suffer death because of His great compassionate heart towards us – we are the objects of His love.

God's mercy is based on the work of Christ.

### **3. Knowing and relying on God's love encourages us to love others.**

#### **1 John 4:16**

**John 13:34** *So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love agape each other.*

'Agape' love is a reflection of the character of God Himself - '*unconditional love!*' 'Agape' love is shown by our conduct and actions.

**1 John 3:18** *...let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.*

**John 3:16** *For God so loved the world that He gave His One and only Son....*

#### **1 John 4:11-12**

When we know God's love and rely on God's love we are then able to share God's love to others.

**Ephesians 4:2** *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.*

#### **1 Corinthians 13:4-8a**

##### **i. Paul says love is patient.**

Patience means; "*I make allowances for the faults of another person.*"

Remember how God has been patient with us...

**Colossians 3:13** *Be gentle and ready to forgive; never hold grudges. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.*

**Colossians 3:14** *And the most important piece of clothing you must wear is love. Love is what binds us all together in perfect harmony.*

##### **ii. Paul says love is kind.**

The word kind basically means to '*care.*'

**Ephesians 4:32** *And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*

##### **iii. Paul says love does not envy.**

Love does not boast and love is not proud. True Love endeavours to pursue self-less-ness. God has demonstrated this type of love.

**Romans 5:8** *But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*