

# Googling God



What is love?



**The extent of God's love is exemplified in Jesus' sacrifice.**

1 John 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us...

1 John 4:9-10 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

**The definition of God's love is radically different than typical human love.**

**Regular definition:** Love is an emotion that... Love is a feeling...

**Working definition:** Love is choice of affection, kindness, and mercy that flows from the heart of the lover and a deep relational connection with the beloved.

**God's love is a choice.**

John 13:5,11 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him... <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

Romans 5:6-8 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**God's love is an outflow, not a response.**

1 John 4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 John 4:16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

**God's love is relational.**

Genesis 1:27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Genesis 5:3 When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.

Luke 15:20-24 “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup> “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

<sup>22</sup> “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

**God wants us to love in the same way.**

1 John 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

1 John 4:9-11 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.