

The Attributes of God
Attribute #14 - Love

1. Love - On four occasions the Scripture describe and declare, "God is...."
 - A. He is spirit (John 4:24)
 - B. He is a consuming fire (Heb.12:29)
 - C. He is light (1 John 1:5)
 - D. He is love (1 John 4:16)
 1. Respectively, these descriptions depict God's:
 - a. Substance – Spirit
 - b. Holiness - Fire
 - c. Perfection - Light
 - d. Goodness - Love
 2. It would be impossible to place any one of these characteristics above the other because God's personality, attributes and nature cannot be divided into primary and secondary classifications.
 - a. Deut.4: 37; 7:8,13; 10:15; 23:5
 - b. John 3:35
 - c. Romans 5:8; 8:37
 - d. Heb. 12:6
 - E. Divine love is often misunderstood even by believers. It is often confused with amiability or good-natured indulgence; it is reduced to a mere sickly sentiment patterned after human emotion. The better we are acquainted with Godly love, the more our hearts will be drawn out in love to Him.
2. God's Love Defined
 - A. The love of God is uninfluenced - There is nothing in the objects of God's love, in the creatures that He loves, to attract or prompt Him to love.
 1. The love one person has for another is because of something in the person.
 2. The love of God is spontaneous, free, uncaused, from eternity

- a. Deut 7:7-8
 - b. Romans 9:11-15, 18
 - c. 1 John 3:1; 4:10
- 3. He did not love us because we loved Him, but He loved us before there was a glimmer of love for Him.
 - a. I John 4:19
- B. The love of God is eternal – Since God is eternal and God is love, as God had no beginning, neither did His love. He is love itself.
 - 1. Jer. 31:3
 - 2. Psalm 103:17
 - 3. Isaiah 54:8-9
 - 4. 2 Thess. 2:13-16
 - 5. 2 Tim. 1:9
- C. The love of God is sovereign – Since God is sovereign and under obligations to none, acting according to His own pleasure, and since God is love, His love is sovereign.
 - 1. Because God is God, He does as He pleases, because He is love, He loves whom He pleases.
 - 2. Eph. 1:4-5
- D. The love of God is infinite – Because God is infinite, so His love is without limit.
 - 1. There is a depth to it that we cannot fathom; a height to which none can scale; there is a length and breadth to it that defies measurement.
 - 2. Romans 8:37-39
- E. The love of God is immutable – Because with God there is no variation (James 1:17), so His love knows neither change nor diminution.
 - 1. John 13:1
 - 2. Song of Solomon 8:6-7
- F. The love of God is holy – God's love is not regulated by caprice, passion, or sentiment. Just as His grace reigns not at the expense of holiness, but "through righteousness" (Romans 5:21), so His love never conflicts with His holiness.

1. 1 John 1:5 comes before 1 John 4:8
2. Heb. 12:6

G. The love of God is gracious – It is the goodwill and grace of God that determined Him to give His son for sinners.

1. John 3:16
2. Romans 8:32-39
3. Agape - The principal Greek word used for 'love' in the NT. Of the three words for love in the Hellenistic world, it was the least common. The other two words were *eros*, which meant sexual love, and *philos*, which meant friendship, although their meanings could vary according to the context in which they appeared. Agape, because it was used so seldom and was so unspecific in meaning, could be used in the NT to designate the unmerited love God shows to humankind in sending his son as suffering redeemer. When used of human love, it means selfless and self-giving love.

H. The Love of God Described

1. Is a part of his character. 2 Cor. 13:11; 1Jo 4:8.
2. Christ, the especial object of. John 15:9; 17:26.
3. Christ abides in. John 15:10.
4. Described as
 - a. Sovereign. Deut. 7:8; 10:15.
 - b. Great. Eph 2:4.
 - c. Abiding. Zep 3:17.
 - d. Unfailing. Isa. 49:15,16.
 - e. Unalienable. Romans 8:39.
 - f. Constraining. Hosea 11:4.
 - g. Everlasting. Jer. 31:3.
5. Irrespective of merit. Deut. 7:7; Job 7:17.
6. Manifested towards
 - a. Perishing sinners. John 3:16; Titus 3:4.
 - b. His saints. John 16:27; 17:23; 2Thess. 2:16; 1 John 4:16.
 - c. The destitute. Deut. 10:18.
 - d. The cheerful giver. 2 Cor. 9:7.
7. Exhibited in
 - a. The giving of Christ. John 3:16.
 - b. The sending of Christ. 1 John 4:9.
 - c. Christ's dying for us while sinners. Ro 5:8; 1Jo 4:10.
 - d. Election. Mal 1:2,3; Romans 9:11-13.
 - e. Adoption. 1 John 3:1.

- f. Redemption. Isa. 43:3,4; 63:9.
- g. Freeness of salvation. Tit 3:4-7.
- h. Forgiving sin. Isa. 38:17.
- i. Quickening of souls. Eph 2:4,5.
- j. Drawing us to himself. Hosea 11:4.
- k. Temporal blessings. Deut. 7:13.
- l. Chastisements. Heb 12:6.
- m. Defeating evil counsels. Deut. 23:5.
- 8. Shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Spirit. Romans 5:5.
- 9. Saints know and believe. 1 John 4:16.
- 10. Saints should abide in. Jude 1:21.
- 11. Perfected in saints
 - a. By obedience. 1 John 2:5.
 - b. By brotherly love. 1 John 4:12.
- 12. The source of our love to him. 1 John 4:19.
- 13. To be sought in prayer. 2 Cor. 13:14.1