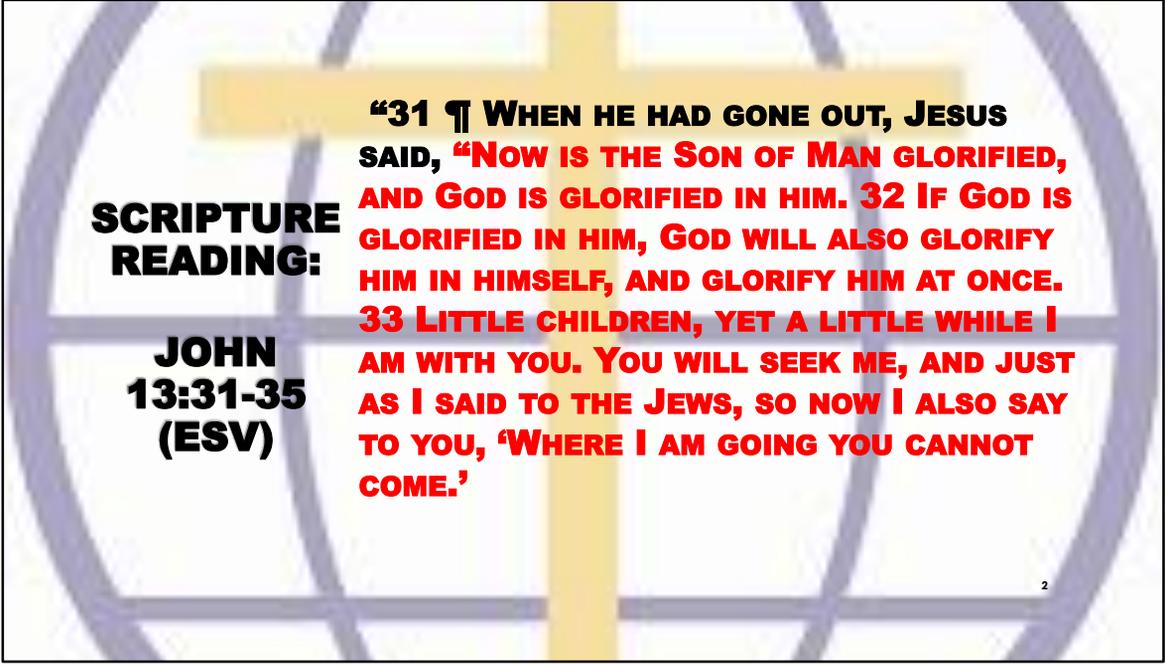


# LOVE ROOTED IN GOD

**Grace Communion International  
Minister: Eric Vautour**

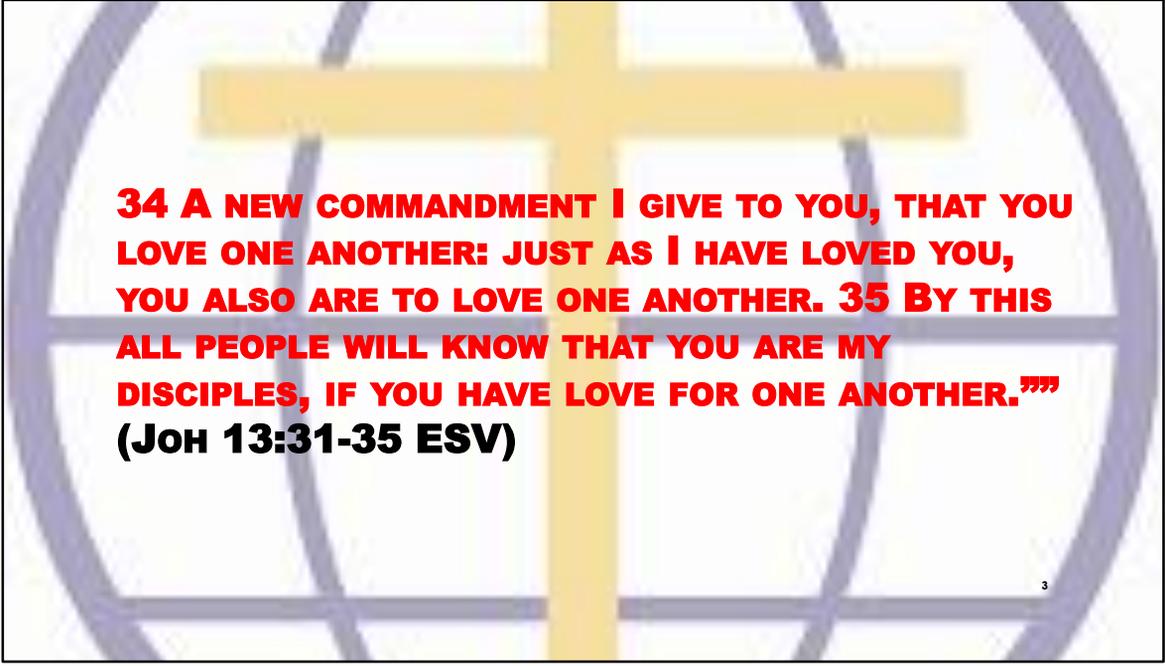
**Date: May 19, 2019**



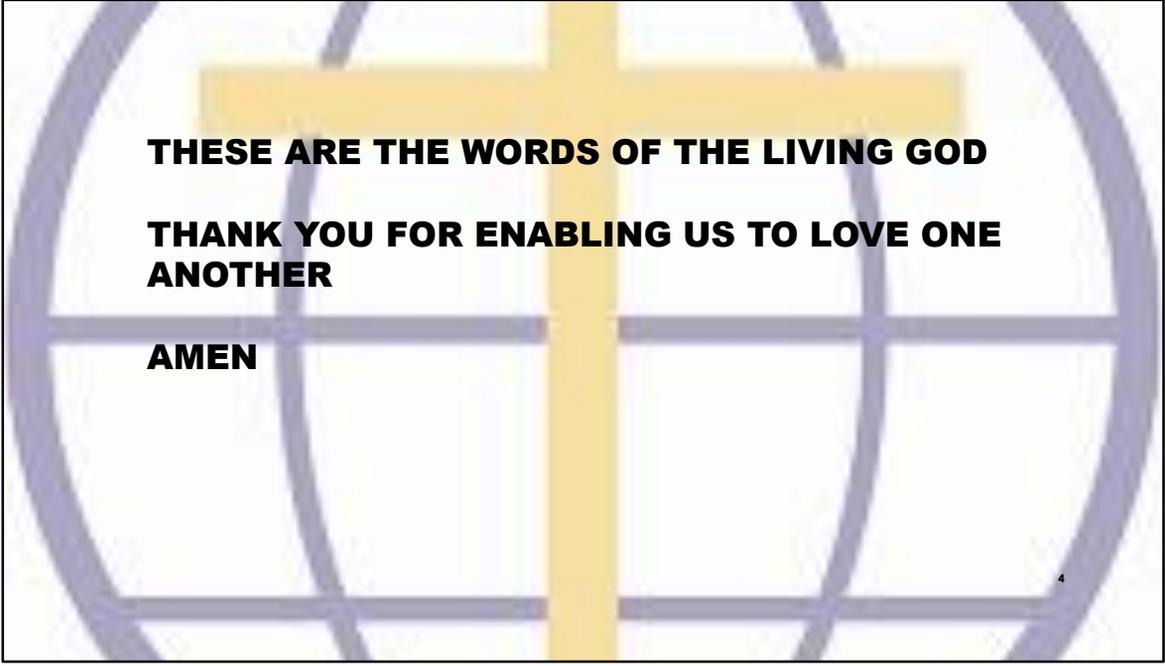
**SCRIPTURE  
READING:**

**JOHN  
13:31-35  
(ESV)**

**“31 ¶ WHEN HE HAD GONE OUT, JESUS SAID, “NOW IS THE SON OF MAN GLORIFIED, AND GOD IS GLORIFIED IN HIM. 32 IF GOD IS GLORIFIED IN HIM, GOD WILL ALSO GLORIFY HIM IN HIMSELF, AND GLORIFY HIM AT ONCE. 33 LITTLE CHILDREN, YET A LITTLE WHILE I AM WITH YOU. YOU WILL SEEK ME, AND JUST AS I SAID TO THE JEWS, SO NOW I ALSO SAY TO YOU, ‘WHERE I AM GOING YOU CANNOT COME.’”**



**34 A NEW COMMANDMENT I GIVE TO YOU, THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER: JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, YOU ALSO ARE TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER. 35 BY THIS ALL PEOPLE WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU HAVE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER.””  
(Joh 13:31-35 ESV)**



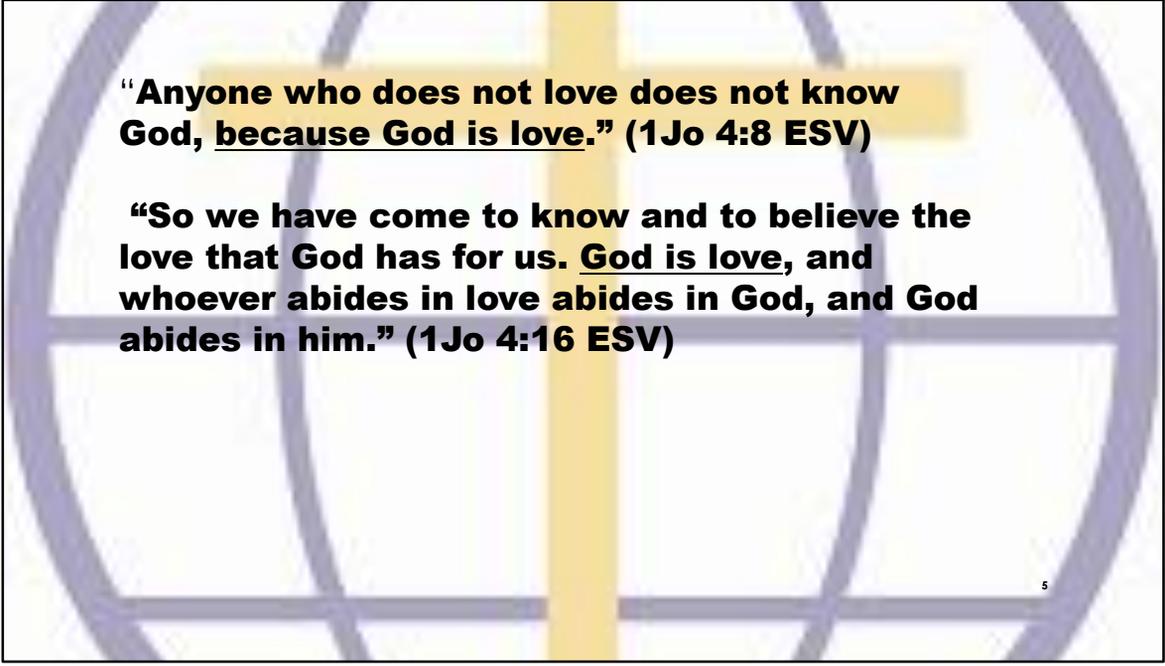
**THESE ARE THE WORDS OF THE LIVING GOD**

**THANK YOU FOR ENABLING US TO LOVE ONE  
ANOTHER**

**AMEN**

During today's sermon, we are going to briefly look into how godly love is rooted in God himself and how we express love to others.

We will begin to look at how God describes himself and the relationship God the Father and Jesus has. (Next slide)



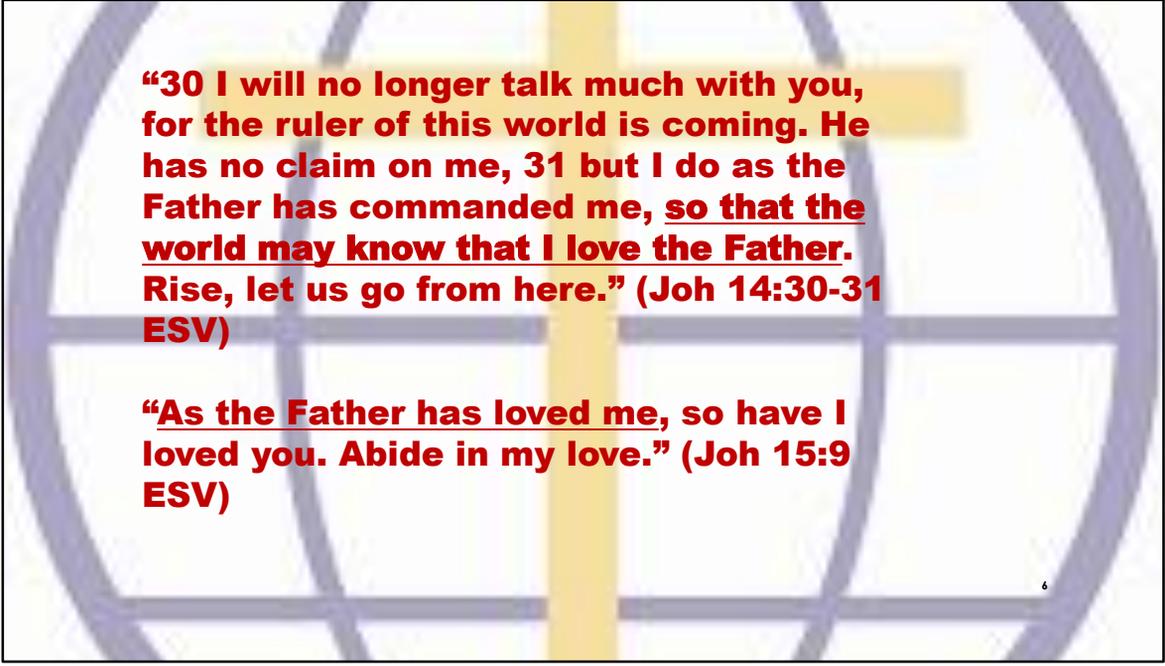
**“Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.” (1Jo 4:8 ESV)**

**“So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.” (1Jo 4:16 ESV)**

God is love.

In the Old Testament, when he revealed himself to Moses, he said of himself, “... ‘**The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,**’ (Ex 34:6 ESV)

When Jesus came on the earth, he revealed the type of relationship he had with God the Father and the relationship God the Father had with Jesus. This is a relationship that existed from eternity.



**“30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, 31 but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.” (Joh 14:30-31 ESV)**

**“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.” (Joh 15:9 ESV)**

It is not surprising when we read that God is love that there is love between the Father and the Son, a love that is eternal.

Since God is eternal, we read in Luke 10:22, **“All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.” (Lu 10:22 ESV)**

The New Testament clearly reveals to us that God is one in three distinct persons namely the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

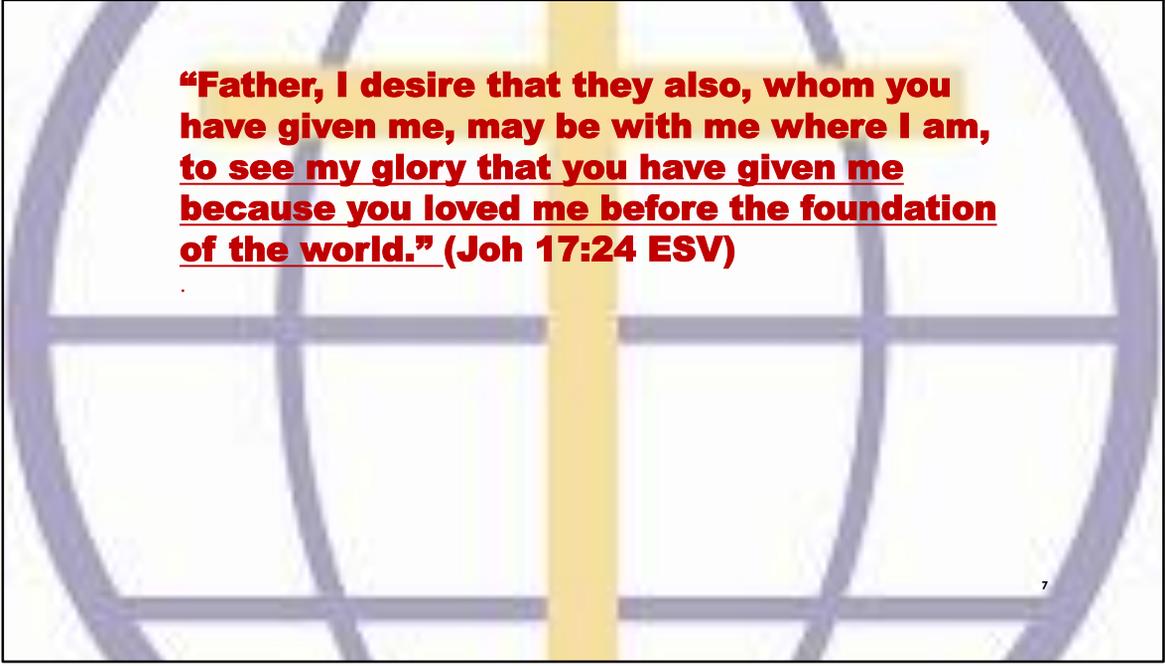
It is also interesting to read in the Old Testament in the second commandment that ***they were not to make for themselves a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth (Deuteronomy 5:8).***

We are creation. God is uncreated. He is completely different than whom we are in his person. In other words as created being, we look different than what God does because we are created. We are made physical. God is not. He is spirit. Only God is able

to create out of nothing. We are of the earth. God is completely different from us.

This is why it's important to let God reveal himself rather than project our image of who God is. Jesus came in our flesh to reveal to us who the Father is. He created us with the ability to understand words. Jesus came to us as the Word of God to communicate to us in ways we were created to understand who God is.

We know that God the Father loves the Son in very concrete ways. God the Father gives glory to Jesus. Jesus was given glory before he became incarnate. (Next slide)



**“Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.” (Joh 17:24 ESV)**

Again, the loving relationship between the persons of the Godhead existed before everything was created. Their relationship of love is eternal.

God the Father, in his love for his Son Jesus, glorified him by giving him authority over all creation. God the Father gave the responsibility to Jesus to create ***all things, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Colossians 1:16-17)***

Jesus, as we read in first Corinthians 15, will return all authority given to him to God the Father when he will have done away with all traces of evil. (1 Corinthians 15:24)

Jesus loves the Father very completely because he accepted to come to the earth, to leave his glory and to be incarnate in our flesh.

While on the earth, Jesus showed the world that he loves God the Father by doing what he was commanded by him. **“But I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.” (Joh 14:31 ESV).**

***Being God, being equal with God, Jesus humbled himself and made himself nothing taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men (Philippians 2:5-7).***

*One day, the whole world will know how Jesus loves the Father and the world will know how the Father loves the Son because **God highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name. At the name of Jesus, every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth. Every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:9-11)***

○ **IN TALKING ABOUT GOD'S LOVE, KARL BARTH SAYS THE FOLLOWING, "AND HE IS THIS, NOT IN ANY RECIPROCAL SELF-SEEKING, INDIFFERENCE, NEUTRALITY OR EVEN ENMITY, BUT IN THE SELF-GIVING OF THE FATHER TO THE SON AND THE SON TO THE FATHER WHICH IS ACCOMPLISHED IN THE FACT THAT HE IS NOT MERELY THE FATHER AND THE SON BUT ALSO THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND THEREFORE AS THE FATHER IS WHOLLY FOR THE SON, AND AS THE SON WHOLLY FOR THE FATHER. IN VIRTUE OF HIS TRINITARIAN ESSENCE GOD IS FREE AND SOVEREIGN AND COMPETENT AND POWERFUL TO LOVE US. HE CAN AND MAY AND MUST AND WILL LOVE US. HE DOES IN FACT LOVE US. AND HE MAKES HIMSELF THE BASIS OF OUR LOVE." (KARL BARTH, CHURCH DOGMATICS VOLUME IV.2, PAGE 757)**

The fact that God's love and that the love we have towards others is rooted in him in the person of Jesus Christ, our high priest is indeed most encouraging.

God is a very loving God. He is not like fallen man.

In Hosea 11:1 God says, **"1 ¶ When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. 2 The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols."** (Ho 11:1-2 ESV)

Israel is a type of humanity. The more God showed himself to them the more they went away from God, rebelled and turned to idols. There were consequences for turning away from God. They became very degenerate at times committing awful sinful atrocities that we can read about in the Old Testament. They were captured by other people such as the Babylonians and Assyrians and others. They were dispersed and yet God did not give up on them.

**"8 ¶ How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. 9 I will not execute my burning anger; I will**

**not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath." (Ho 11:8-9 ESV)**

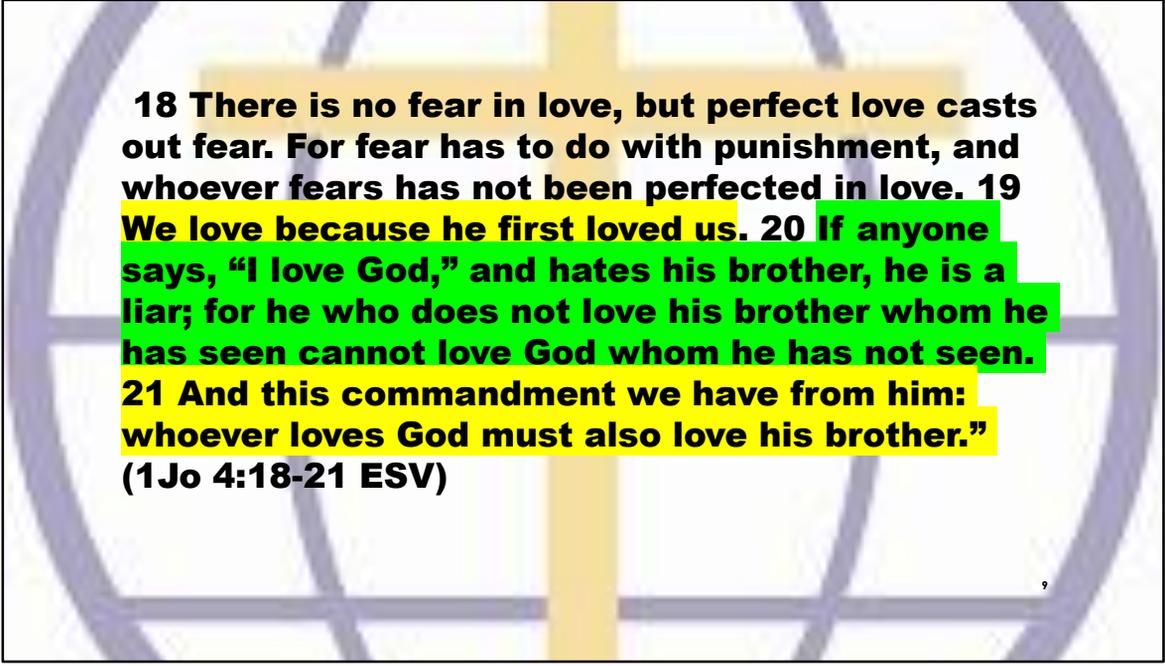
God came to us in the person of Jesus Christ.

Jesus showed his love to the Father by being completely submissive to the Father.

Jesus so loved us that he gave us his life. He gave all of himself to God the Father and all of himself to us. When he died for us, we were like the nation of Israel. We were sinners and estranged from God. As we read in 2 Corinthians, Jesus died for all.

We, man, have never taken the initiative to love God first. God loved us first in freedom, not because he had to but because he wanted to. Love is part of his perfect nature. His love is perfect not tainted by sin at all.

(next slide)



**18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother."**  
**(1Jo 4:18-21 ESV)**

The word love in both John 13:34-35 and in this passage is agape which is godly love – the love God has within himself and that we can have for one another through the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

In the original Hebrew language, there are forwarders that describes love. (next slide)



**Agapeo: Unconditional love; the love of God in the renewed mind in manifestation**

**Phileo: Love between friends**

**Eros: The sense of being in love; romantic love**

**Storge: Love of family; Parent/child, siblings, cousins, etc. In a very close family, agape is felt as well. (from <http://gods-word-first.org/> )**

10

1- **Agape** is the love that describes who God is. God is love. Agape love is a deliberate action of the will. It is not based on emotions or feelings.

For example, we are commanded to love our enemies but it does not necessarily mean having good feelings towards our enemies. He commands us to act in a loving way towards them as he teaches in his word.

Agape love is also related to commitment and obedience. Love towards God means that we obey his commandments. **“Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” (Joh 14:21 ESV).**

If we say we love God, love Jesus without the obedience of faith, we are then fooling and deceiving ourselves. Our love for God is evident in our lifestyle.

This word is found 215 times in the King James Bible.

2- **Phileo** means to treat affectionately or kindly, to welcome, befriend (Strong’s Concordance).

Phileo is found 21 times in the new King James Bible.

It has a very different meaning than agape love. It has to do with feeling good about somebody or something. For example, the Pharisees love to have the best places in the synagogue (Matt 23:6). It can mean the affection we have for a friend or for a family member, etc.

What God's presence in us, we can love our enemies but we will not have a phileo attraction to him or her.

3- **Eros** is not found in the Bible but it refers to sexual love.

4- **Storge**: The fourth Greek word we need to understand is storge, which is the love and affection that naturally occurs between parents and children, can exist between siblings, and exists between husbands and wives in a good marriage. It occurs in Romans 12:10 in the word, philostorgos, which is a compound word made up of philos (the noun form of phileo) and storge. Romans 12:10 is a very important verse, directing us to be very loving and kind to each other. Romans 12:10 (Expanded translation) *"As to your brotherly love, let there be deep friendship and family-affection toward one another."* (from gods-word-first.org)

The world will know that we are God's disciples if we love one another.

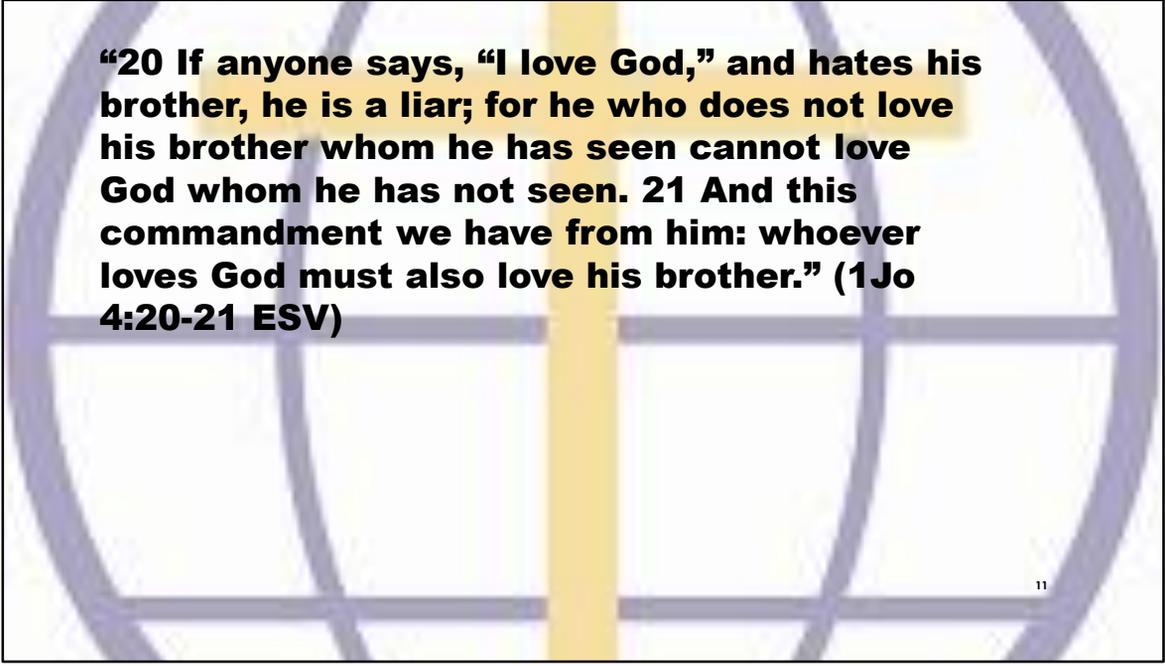
Being disciples of Jesus implies that we are going to learn and obey Jesus.

The world defines love in a very different way than God us.

The world often perceives that God's love, grounded in what he commands us, as not love but hate.

We must be guided by the word of God to know how to love others, those inside and those outside the church.

(next slide)



**“20 If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.” (1Jo 4:20-21 ESV)**

11

The word of God tells us how to love one another. We just need to read passages such as Romans 12:9-21 and Romans 13:8-14 and others to see what attitudes and actions God wants us to have.

Recently, I was reading the book, “SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL FOR GOD by Malcolm Muggeridge. It is based on time he spent with mother Theresa in Calcutta, India. She worked with the poorest of the poor. With her community, she served lepers, the dying, the abandoned, etc... She began her calling in the slums of Calcutta. Malcolm Muggeridge said about her, **‘For me, Mother Teresa embodies Christian love in action. Her face shines with the love of Christ on which her whole life is centred, and her words carry that message to our world which never needed it’s so much.’**

**On pages 112–115 of the same book, here is part of the interview Malcolm Muggeridge had with Mother Teresa:  
Mother Teresa:**

Because we cannot see Christ we cannot express our love to him; but our neighbors we can always see, and we can do to them what if we saw him we would like to do to Christ.

**Malcolm Muggeridge**

You don't think there's a danger that people might mistake the means for the end, and feel that serving their fellow man was an end in itself. Do you think there's a danger in that?

**Mother Teresa.**

There's always the danger that we may become only social workers or just do the work for the sake of the work.

**Malcolm.**

That's what I was thinking of. Isn't it a danger?

**Mother Teresa**

it is a danger; if we forget to whom we are doing it. Our works are only an expression of our love for Christ. Our hearts need to be full of love for him and since we have to express that love in action, naturally then the poorest of the poor are the means of expressing our love for God.

**Malcolm.**

I understand that, and even in the short visit I've sensed it as I have never have before. These lepers and these little children that you get up the street, they are not just destitute people, to be pitied, but marvelous people. Anyone who is well can pity a man who sick. Anyone who has enough can pity someone who hasn't enough. But I think that what you do is to make one see that these people are not just to be pitied; they are marvelous people. How do you do this?

**Mother Teresa**

that's just what a Hindu gentleman said that they and we are doing social work, and the difference between them and us is that they were doing it for something and we were doing it to somebody. This is where the respect and the love and the devotion come in that we give it and we do it to God, to Christ, and that's why we tried to do it as beautifully as possible. Because it's a continual contact with Christ in his work... But here in the slums, in the broken body, and the children, we see Christ and we touch him.

She opened her first school in December 1948. She opened her first slum school.

In 1965 she opened a center near Caracas, Venezuela.

In 1967, she went to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) to open the school in Colombo.

In 1968, she went to Rome to open in the slums of that city.

In October 1971, she was awarded the **Kennedy International Award Winner** for **'outstanding service to mankind.'**

In 1979, she received the Nobel Peace Prize. She died on September 5, 1997, in Calcutta, India.

We cannot all be Mother Teresa's. However, God has shed abroad in our heart's love, his agape love, that we can share with others.

Imagine if in all the Christian churches, we had the devotion to Christ to live in his commandments and to love one another as he instructs us in his word. What an example of this would be.

We need to remember that God's economy is not our economy. Jesus leads his whole church. But he is also very interested in individuals. We read in God's word that there is much rejoicing in heaven when one sinner repents.

We can love others with agape love one at a time. This begins with each and every one of us in the body of Christ, his church.

In that sense, Mother Teresa gives us great insight. This is what she said in response to Malcolm Muggeridge question in that same interview on page 119 of the same book, *"I do not agree with the big way of doing things. To us what matters is an individual. To get to love the person we must come in close contact with him. If we must wait till we get the numbers, then we will be lost in the numbers. And we will never be able to show that love and respect for the person. I believe in person to person; every person is Christ for me, and since there is only one Jesus, that person is only one person in the world for me at that moment."*

Let us pray for the Holy Spirit to have his free way in us for us to love fellow Christians and others who are not yet Christians with the very love of God.