

BELIEVING THAT GOD LOVES YOU

I. WE LOVE BECAUSE GOD FIRST LOVED US – 1 John 4:10, 1 John 4:19

II. LOVING OTHERS MEANS LAYING DOWN YOUR LIFE FOR THEM – 1 John 3:16

- A. Godly love is a sacrificial, giving, Christ-like love. Ephesians 5:1-2, 5:25
- B. Godly love means loving others who do not deserve to be loved. John 13:1-2
- C. Godly love means putting others first, thinking of others as more important than yourself. Philippians 2:1-5, 2 Corinthians 12:15

III. KEYS TO LOVING OTHERS

- A. You need to be born of God - you need to be born again and be saved. 1 John 4:7
- B. You need to abide in God, to have a close and intimate walk with God. 1 John 4:12, 13, 16
- C. You need to love by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit enables you to abide in God, to abide in Christ and to love. Galatians 5:22, Colossians 1:8

IV. “*WE HAVE COME TO KNOW AND HAVE BELIEVED THE LOVE GOD HAS FOR US*”

- A. “*We*” – As a spiritual family, we are to know and believe the love of God.
- B. “*Have come to know and have believed*” is present perfect tense. Knowing God’s love started when you were saved and has continued on up to the present time.
- C. Psalm 136 – God has continually and greatly loved you since you were saved. But you need to think about His love, abide in His love, and not forget His love.
- D. Knowing God’s love – it is God’s Word that specifically tells us about His love.
- E. Believing God’s love – believing what God’s Word says about love, and learning to recognize the many ways God specifically loves you. He loves you by being with you, by communicating, by being with you, by providing, by protecting, by giving, by forgiving, by giving you a purpose, by giving you work, by giving you friends, by giving you a future.
- F. Be thankful for God’s love. Share with others how God has loved you. Praise God for His love for you. Psalm 136:1-3, 26; Psalm 145:1-7

V. WHEN YOU GET STUCK IN LIFE, WHEN YOU ARE NOT MAKING PROGRESS...

A. Getting stuck in life often relates to not believing God's love for you. You feel like God has left you, and is against you, and has forgotten you. Repent of not believing God's love for you, and start believing His love for you.

B. God is sovereign over your life, and allows difficult things to happen so that you can see and comprehend the love of God all the more. Psalms 34, 59, 63

C. Some questions: when times are hard, when you get sick, when you have conflicts, when you have sinned, when a loved one passes away, when there's problems with your job or your finances, have you then believed that God has been loving you? John 11:1-5

D. Do you believe God loves you? Romans 8:28-39

YOU LORD ARE ABOUNDING IN LOVE TO ALL WHO CALL UPON YOU...
I WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O LORD MY GOD, WITH ALL MY HEART...
FOR GREAT IS YOUR LOVE TOWARD ME, FOR YOU HAVE DELIVERED
MY SOUL FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE GRAVE. Psalm 86:5, 12, 13

SOME QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

1. What is the main thing you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. How can you love others by sacrificing your life for them?
3. Why is abiding in God one of the main keys to loving others?
4. Think back over your life, and think about how God has shown His love to you?
5. What are some of the specific ways that God has loved you?
6. Why is understanding God's sovereignty important for experiencing God's love.
7. Do you believe God loves you? Why or why not?