



Everyone has a desire to be loved because we were created by God out of love.
For God so loves.

God was not lonely He did not need to create humanity, He was in perfect relationship with Himself, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, the three are one.

Yet God chose to create because He so loves.

God so loves that He chose to make Himself known through His creation. God so loves that He chose to make Himself known through His power. God so loves that He chose to make Himself known through His Word, both the audible and written word. God so loves that He chose to make Himself known through the gift of His Son, through Jesus Christ who became human and walked the earth as a man. God so loves that He chose to make Himself known through the gift of Himself, pouring out His Spirit, His presence within all who receive Jesus. For God so loves He wants to make Himself known. He wants His love to be made known.

In fact without God's love, everything we do is meaningless.

Yet since the beginning of time humanity has had difficulty in receiving or accepting God's unconditional love. The root of not receiving God's love is our flesh. It is our flesh that says, you have to treat someone with favour to get someone's love. It is our flesh that says, you don't need anyone's love. It is our flesh that makes us prideful and blinds us to the need for love. It is our flesh that says, receiving God's love is a sign of weakness. It is our flesh that says, you are not good enough to receive God's love, who do you think you are? It is our flesh that says, I must do something to earn God's love, or to keep God's love.

All of these are lies as God's love is unconditional.

The early church in Corinth was full of the flesh and many were boasting that they had received spiritual gifts. They were glorifying in their gifts, as if it was a result of their own character or mature spiritual development.



They failed to see that because God so loves that He gives spiritual gifts. God so loves He freely gives. Jesus gives according to the Father's will, so that the church can be built up and have a revelation of God's love, be one with the Father, one with Jesus, one in Spirit, transformed by His love, so that the world may know Him.

A gift is just that, it cannot be earned. If the church in Corinth was full of God's love instead of fleshly pride, they would be as one, then the world will know the one true God and Jesus Christ whom the Father had sent.

Let's turn to what we call the love chapter. **1 Corinthians 13** The Apostle Paul, the writer of the text had a wonderful revelation of God's love. Let's see what Paul says when writing to the prideful church of Corinth about God's love.

1 Corinthians 13:1 This is the Apostle Paul speaking. *'Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.'*

Paul states that if he speaks with the heart language of men or angels, yet does not love of God, does not have love, all the words he says are meaningless, they become a loud noise, in amongst all the other noises of this world.

God so loves that He speaks to us through His word both His written word and His audible voice. He speaks through His prophets. He speaks through His Son. He speaks through the Holy Spirit. God speaks because He loves. He wants us to know Him, know how much He loves us. When we come to read His Word and we read it through His eyes of love we are able to give the correct meaning to His Word and see His love. Without love we can read His Word through the eyes of our flesh and look to what the flesh can get out of it and attach incorrect meaning to the text, a meaning that God never intended.

Without love everything we do is meaningless.



Verse 2 The Apostle Paul continues on. *'And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.'*

Paul was a very gifted and anointed Apostle of God yet he says he could have all the spiritual gifts, yet if he did not know how much God loves him, if he did not receive God's love and live in the power of God's love himself, he declares he is nothing.

Paul has the faith to move mountains but what good is it if he is not doing it out of love for those who need the mountain removed.

God so loves, Jesus so loves He gives the power to move mountains. His power is always motivated and driven by love, for God does everything because He loves.

Jesus so loves that He breaks every chain of bondage, Jesus so loves that He gave His life so that we could live. Jesus so loves that He gave of Himself. He gives His name, His power and authority to move mountains, to break the chains, to live in the life He has called us to live in authority and dominion over our flesh/our selfish desires and the evil one.

But without love everything we do is meaningless.

Verse 3 The Apostle Paul says, *'And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, profits me nothing.'*

Paul states that even if he gives everything to feed the poor, even if he gives his body to whatever worthy cause and if he does it not out of the love of God and love for others, then it profits him nothing.

All the good deeds are worthless if we are doing them out of selfish desires, if we are doing them out of a wrong motive, if we are doing them not out of the transforming power of God's love, they are worthless. They are meaningless because very thing we do is to testify and be a witness of God's love. So if we are doing them out of our flesh they are meaningless.



The world discerns whether we are doing a good work to have personal gain, or doing a good work because that is what good Christians should do or whether we are doing a good work out of the transforming power, revelation and outworking of His love in us.

God gives because He loves. God doesn't give to get a benefit for Himself. God doesn't give to feel good about Himself. God gives because He loves. God does everything because He so loves.

Without love, everything we do is meaningless.

Verses 1-3 show us the value of love. The next verses show us how love is. This is God's love, not human love but God's love.

Verses 4-5 *'Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;'*

Today we are taught to know our needs, our wants, our desires, our feelings and what an individual can get out of life, out of a relationship. That is the way of the world.

That is the flesh. That is not God's way.

God's love is not provoked, thinks no evil. God's love gives freely. God gave His Son. Jesus so loved He gave up His heavenly riches, walked the earth as a man, died, rose, ascended on high. He subjected Himself to the human condition. He suffered the shame, the rejection, the persecution, the betrayal, because He so loves.

God does everything for the benefit of others. Jesus never used His power for His own self. He did everything because He so loves. He did everything because He's surrendered to the Father's will, committed to finish the work He has sent Him to do. For God so loves He sent His Son.

The Holy Spirit is forever testifying of Jesus bringing glory to Him and Jesus is forever bringing glory to the Father and the Father has given Jesus all power and dominion. Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords. He is the ruler of God's Kingdom.



The Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit are fuelled by love. Perfect love. Love for their creation, love for the individual and love for the multitudes. God's love for us in fact defines us, is our identity. God's love in us identifies us. God created us because He loves.

God sent His Son Jesus because He loves. Jesus humbled Himself became flesh, died in our place, so that we can live because He loves.

God's love cannot be contained to Himself it had to spill over. God's love doesn't concern itself with getting hurt. God's love focuses on healing and empowering others. God's love has the transforming power in every heart.

Without love, everything we do is meaningless.

Let us read on in **verse 6-7** *'does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

Those who reject God's love do not rejoice in the Truth, they cling to the lies. They do not have patience in their spirit, in their innermost secret thoughts there is darkness, there is no peace and there is no light.

Yet with God's love we rejoice in Him. We rejoice in the successes of others. We rejoice seeing the captives set free. We rejoice in His Truth, in a greater revelation of His love. We live in His love. We live in His hope, strength and endurance for this is His love.

What drove Jesus to the cross?

What strength empowered and enabled Him to let the soldiers beat Him, endure the torture and the pain and the public humiliation, to be separated from His Father, writhing in agony, torn physically, spiritually and mentally? He chose to stay nailed to the cross until He could say... it... is...finished!

For God so loves.

Verse 8 we read His *'Love never fails.'*



God's love never ever fails. Even when we run away, even when we are so far away from God, God's love never fails. Even when we make mistakes or are disobedient, God's love never fails. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. God's love never fails. No matter the circumstances of this life, God's love never fails. Nothing can separate us from God's love because God's love never fails.

Verse 13 The Apostle Paul says, *And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

Abide means to stay (in a given place, state, relation or *expectancy*): continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain or stand.

I was once asked a very good question by a young pastor. He said, everybody tells me I must love, I must love God, I must love others. But no one can tell me how can I love God. Tell me how can I love God?

I replied, this is how you love God. Simply surrender your will to that of the Father and spend time in God's presence, receiving His love. Let Him transform you in the revelation of His love. Let Him pour His love in you as you and He become one, receiving each day more of Him. He will change you. He will reveal His love for you and to you. He will put His love in your heart. His love for others will flow freely through you to others as you spend time with Him, surrendered to His will, for this is the will of the Father. For God so loves you.

We cannot change ourselves. We cannot make ourselves love. It is His love for us. It is about His love in us, *enabling us* to love. By the power of the Holy Spirit, His love flows through us to others as we spend time knowing Him more and more each day surrendered to our Father's will, in His presence, in His love, we will love. Then Jesus' commandment to love one another becomes a promise He has fulfilled, to the glory of the Father.

Let us conclude with the writing of the Apostle John. He too had a great revelation of God's love.



1 John 4:9-16 *'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. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.*

I'll read that last portion again.

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

It is out of a revelation of God's love that His love is perfected in us and we testify that God so loves.

Without love everything we do is meaningless.