



INTRODUCTION

PART 7: The Love of God

Different religions have differing ideas of what God is like. But who is God? How can we know Him? And what difference does any of it make?

In the Beginning is a series focusing on what God has made known about himself in the first three chapters of the Bible in the book of Genesis. Join us in discovering how life changing this information can be in our relationship with God and with others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Would you say that you were raised in a loving home? Explain your answer. How was love expressed in your house growing up?
2. In what ways do you believe God's love is different than the love people have for one another?
3. How do we know that God loves us? Why do you think we struggle sometimes to believe that God loves us?
4. Read Ephesians 3:17-19. Why is it important that we understand the love of God?
5. Most people believe there are things we can do that will separate us from God's love for us. What are some of those things? Read Romans 8:35-39. According to these verses, what can separate us from God's love?
6. How would you answer someone who said, "If God's love for us is unconditional, people will feel they can do whatever they want (in other words, sin more.)"
7. Read 1 John 4:7-12. From these verses, how do we know God loves us? How should the love we receive from God translate into our love for others?
8. What do you think we should do if we doubt God's love for us?
9. How might you apply this lesson to your life?

APPLICATION

We often have trouble believing God loves us. We need to know that God doesn't just love us...he likes us!

Many of us have experienced meeting God at the lowest point in our life. We've come to learn that if God can love us there, he really does love us. He doesn't love us the way other people do, as His love is infinitely greater, wiser, deeper and farther reaching than we can possibly understand. We experience the fullness of God within the realm of His love. Love is not just one of His attributes; it is the very essence of Him. He doesn't just love; He is love.

Despite sin in the world and in our lives, God pursues us out of His love for us. God was willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice by sending His own Son into this world to die in our place for the things He knew we would do wrong. He did this, not because we are good, but because of His love for us. He loves us, and He looks forward to spending eternity with us.

KEY VERSES

Genesis 1-3
Ephesians 3:17-19
1 John 4:7-8
Genesis 1:26-28
Genesis 3:8-10, 21
1 Peter 1:18-20
1 John 2:1
Romans 8:35, 38-39
John 17:23