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Brookfield on Love / Love; God: Love; God’s Love / 1 John 4:16

The deepest possible expression of God’s character.



**1 John 4:16 ESV**

16 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.

# I. God’s                    is love

## God’s motivation is Love because it is His nature.

‌**1 John 4:8** **ESV** 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because .

‌**Mark 1:10–11** **ESV** 10 And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven, “You are my  Son; with you I am well pleased.”

‌**John 5:20** **ESV** For the Father  the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.

‌**John 10:17** **ESV** For this reason the Father  me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.

‌**John 14:23** **ESV** Jesus answered him, “If anyone  me, he will keep my word, and my Father will  him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

‌**Ephesians 1:6** **ESV** to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the .

‌**Colossians 1:13** **ESV** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his  Son,

# II. Characteristics of God’s love

## A. It is

‌**Jeremiah 31:3** **ESV** 3 the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an ; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

## B. It is a                          love

‌**Deuteronomy 7:9** **ESV**9 Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps                          and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,

## C. It is

‌**Psalm 103:8** **ESV** 8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and                             in steadfast love.

## D. It is

‌**Psalm 33:5** **ESV** 5 He loves                                                                            ; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

What are four characteristics of God’s Love discussed in this lesson?

1. God’s Love is

2. God’s Love is a

3. God’s Love is

4. God’s Love is

# III. Images of God’s love

## A. God as a                   :

‌**Deuteronomy 1:31** **ESV** and in the wilderness, where you have seen how the Lord your God carried you, as a man carries his          , all the way that you went until you came to this place.’

‌**Hebrews 12:6** **ESV** For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every           whom he receives.”

## B. God as a                      :

‌**Jeremiah 31:32** **ESV** not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their                      , declares the Lord.

‌**Revelation 21:2** **ESV** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her                      .

# IV. God’s loving actions

## A. The gift of God’s           is a unique act of love

‌**1 John 4:9–10** **ESV** 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only           into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his           to be the propitiation for our sins.

## B. God sets his love on the

**Romans 5:8 ESV**

8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**Ephesians 2:4–5 ESV**

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

## C. God always acts in love towards believers

‌**Romans 8:38–39** **ESV**38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

# V. God’s love transforms human love

## A. Human love must                       to God’s love

‌**1 John 4:19** **ESV** 19 We love because he                 loved us.

## B. Human love must be                          on God’s love

‌**Matthew 5:44–45** **ESV** 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be              of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.