# **Love of God Project**

# Session 2: God's Agape is Real Love | Videos 1 - 3

Video Seminar Outline and Questions

**Before we begin:** Using what you've learned in the previous session, how would you now describe God's love for you?

#### Session 2: Video 1

#### Characteristics of God's Love

- **A.** God's Love is real:
- **B.** Common misconceptions:
- C. How do we know his love is real? (Mark 12:30, John 16:27):
- **D.** The "Royal Law" (James 2:8; 1 Peter 1:22, 4:8):

# **Discussion Questions**

- **1.** Did any of the mentioned misconceptions influence your understanding of God's love? Discuss.
- **2.** With what type of love are we to love God? Others? Discuss.

# **Spiritual Exercises**

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to write His definition of love on your heart.

For more information, read pages 108-113 in God's True Love by David Harwood

#### Session 2: Video 2

### God's Agape is Real Love Continued:

Aspects of	this	Real	Love:
------------	------	------	-------

	A.	Attraction	(Mark 10:21a)	Genesis 1:31	1
--	----	------------	---------------	--------------	---

**B.** Emotional (Luke 19:41-44; Hosea 11:8):

C. Ardent (Isaiah 62:5b):

**D.** God's Ardent Love Produces Jealousy (James 4:5; Isaiah 63:2-4; James 4:4-5; Ezekiel 16:38):

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Many individuals struggle with believing that God really, personally loves them. Are there obstacles in your heart that prevent you from receiving God's personal love for you? Describe these obstacles. If you don't find obstacles in your own heart, write out an experience of receiving God's personal love.

# **Spiritual Exercises**

1. Please paraphrase, personalize and pray through Mark 12:21a:

Jesus looked at him and loved him.

2. As you read the following verse prayerfully, ask the Lord to help you experience Him singing over you in joy, His song of love for you:

**Zephaniah 3:17** - "The LORD your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy."

3. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see yourself as the bride, being pursued in the Song of Solomon. Personalize and pray Song of Solomon 7:10:

**Song of Solomon 7:10** "I am my beloved's, And his desire is for me.

For more information, read pages 116-122 in God's True Love by David Harwood

#### Session 2: Video 3

## More Aspects of God's Real Love:

- **E.** God's love **delights in our love** (James 1:12, 2:5; 1 Corinthians 8:3, 2:9; John 14:2b-3; Song of Songs 1:2, 4:9)
- **F.** God's love is **paternal** (Mark 1:11;)
- **G.** God's love is **affectionately devoted** (John 11:5; James 2:23b; Isaiah 41:8b)
- **H.** God loves us **for a reason** (John 16:27)
- **I.** Personal (1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19; 2 Corinthians 5:19; Galatians 2:20b; Matthew 10:30; Psalm 40:5, 139:17-18; John 13:5, 17:23):

# God's love is REAL LOVE and He really Loves You!

### **Discussion Questions**

- 1. After hearing this teaching, compare what you have heard with what you wrote on the first page of this outline. Has your understanding of God's love for you changed? If so, how?
- **2.** We have spoken about God's love being ardent, emotional, paternal and devoted. Can you think of other aspects of God's love which the Scriptures attest to?

### **Spiritual Exercises**

- 2. What did you struggle with the most in this session? Consider taking further time to study the Scriptures about this topic, and commit it to prayer.
- 3. We have heard many Bible verses describing what God's love is like. Our theological worldview as well as our relationship at home between our parents helps form our definition of love. This often subconsciously influences our approach to God. Ask God to write His definition of love in your heart.

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any twoedged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart

Read the following verses out loud 3 times (if in a small group, appoint a leader to read them to the others). The first time: just listen to the verse. The second time: ask the Holy Spirit to highlight a word or phrase on your heart. Then, after saying the verse the third time, pray what you received from the Holy Spirit, back to God.

- **1 John 3:1** How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!
- 1 John 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us
- **1 John 4:10** This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

**Romans 8:38-39** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither ht nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

For more information, read pages 121-129 in God's True Love by David Harwood