

Love Unlimited
(Made for Love Part 3)
Romans 8:31-39, Jeremiah 31:3-6
February 4, 2018

1. God's love is _____ ours.

Psalm 103:11 ***For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;***

Ephesians 3:16-19 ***I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ... 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.***

2. God's love is _____.

Deuteronomy 7:7-8 ***The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. 8 But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.***

Ephesians 2:4-5 ***But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.***

Romans 5:8 ***But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***

3. God's love is _____.

I Corinthians 13:4-8a ***Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails.***

4. God's love is _____ - _____.

John 3:16 ***For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.***

John 15:13 ***Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.***

I John 4:9 ***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.***

5. God's love is _____.

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, 39 neither height 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.***

John 10:28-29 ***I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all^[e]; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.***

6. God's love _____.

Jeremiah 31:4 ***I will build you up again, and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt. Again you will take up your timbrels and go out to dance with the joyful.***

Jeremiah 2:20 ***“Long ago you broke off your yoke and tore off your bonds; you said, ‘I will not serve you!’ Indeed, on every high hill and under every spreading tree you lay down as a prostitute.***

Jeremiah 3:1 ***“If a man divorces his wife and she leaves him and marries another man, should he return to her again? Would not the land be completely defiled? But you have lived as a prostitute with many lovers— would you now return to me?” declares the Lord.***

7. God's love is _____.

I 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.***

8. God's love is _____.

Jeremiah 31:3 ***The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.***

Psalms 136:1 ***Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.***
(44 x's!)

John 14:2-3 ***My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.***

I John 3:1-2 ***See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.***

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- Do you have any idea how precious you are? How priceless.
- Do you even have an inkling of how much God loves you?
- I don't think you do. Neither do I.

1. God's love is different from ours.

- Isaiah 55:8-9 says, *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. 9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*

Psalm 103:11 *For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;*

- You may have some **power and strength**, but that is nothing compared to God's power and strength.
- You may have some **wisdom and knowledge**, but that is nothing compared to God's wisdom and knowledge.
- When we put our power, strength, wisdom, knowledge and other qualities up against God's, we realize we don't even know the meaning of the words.
- Likewise, you may think you know what love is because you've loved other people,
- but our human love is nothing compared with the love of God

Ephesians 3:16-19 *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,*

19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

- When I held my first child for the first time.
- We've been talking about love for the last three weeks.
 - Created for Love: God's Masterpiece
 - Looking for Love (God shaped- vacuum)
 - "We love because He first loved us."
- What is this love like?
- Tip of the iceberg.

2. God's love is unconditional.

Deuteronomy 7:7-8 ***The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. 8 But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.***

Ephesians 2:4-5 ***3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.***

Romans 5:8 ***But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***

- What if Pat loves me because of my muscular physique or my vast income?
- If I lose those things, will she no longer love me?

- It is true that the Bible often says that the *Lord loves those who love Him*, and those sound like conditions,
- but remember our **axiom** is that *we love because He first loved us*.

3. God's love is perfect.

I Corinthians 13:4-8a ***Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails.***

- CS Lewis *The Four Loves*
- στοργή
- ἔρως
- Φιλέω (John 21:15), φιλαδελφία (Hebrews 13:1 + 5x),
- ἀγάπη (I Corinthians 13, Romans 8:39) ἀγαπάω (John 3:16)
- Ὁ Θεὸς ἀγάπη ἐστίν (I John 4:16)

4. God's love is other-focused.

John 3:16 ***For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.***

John 15:13 ***Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.***

I John 4:9 ***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.***

- "Fish Love," Rabbi Abraham Twerski.
- (Rabbi Dressler, "You love what you give to." But that's still to love for self's sake.)

- “Further, to love a man is to wish him good things, as the Philosopher states (Rhet. ii, 4). Now to all our neighbors we wish an equal good, viz. everlasting life.” (St. Thomas Aquinas *Suma Theologica* II II 26 art 6 <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/3026.htm#article6>)
- To love someone is to will his or her greatest good.
- Sometimes my wife is hard to love. ...
- God loves you for you, not for what He can get out of loving you.

5. God’s love is invincible.

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, 39 neither height 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.***

John 10:28-29 ***I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all[c]; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.***

- No matter what you have done.
- Gotcha and I won’t let go.

6. God’s love restores.

Jeremiah 31:4 ***I will build you up again, and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt. Again you will take up your timbrels and go out to dance with the joyful.***

- Exile and restoration
- God changes prostitutes into virgins!

Jeremiah 2:20 ***“Long ago you broke off your yoke and tore off your bonds; you said, ‘I will not serve you!’ Indeed, on every high hill and under every spreading tree you lay down as a prostitute.***

Jeremiah 3:1 ***“If a man divorces his wife and she leaves him and marries another man, should he return to her again? Would not the land be completely defiled? But you have lived as a prostitute with many lovers—would you now return to me?” declares the Lord.***

7. God’s love is sacrificial.

I 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.***

8. God’s love is eternal.

■ **Mike Richard’s birthday.**

■ Many people here remind me of someone who used to be here.

Larry, Skip, Dick and Esther, Roger, Jim, Bob, Suellen, my parents, so many.

■ They lived in God’s love among us.

■ They still live in God’s love!

Jeremiah 31:3 ***The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.***

Psalms 136:1 ***Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.*** (44 x’s!)

John 14:2-3 ***My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.***

I John 3:1-2 ***See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet***

been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

- Do you have any idea how deeply you are loved?
- It's beyond our comprehension.
- God's love is unlimited.