

THE LOVE OF GOD:
THE MOST PROFOUND TRUTH EVER KNOWN
(John 3:16)

“God does not love us because we are valuable, but we are valuable because God loves us.”
(Martin Luther)

I. God’s Love DEFINED

A. What it ISN’T

1. Not ROMANTIC FEELINGS
2. Not SELFISH DESIRE
3. Not CAPRICIOUS EMOTION

B. What it IS

1. His WILLFUL COMMITMENT to RESCUE the UNDESERVING
2. His DECISIVE INTERVENTION to DELIVER the CONDEMNED

II. God’s Love DESCRIBED

A. It is an INITIATING love

1. We are by nature HOSTILE toward Him (Rom. 5:8)
2. His love makes us CAPABLE to love Him (1 John 4:19)

B. It is a SACRIFICIAL love (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9)

1. He did not give us the WRATH we DESERVE
 2. He KILLED His SON to provide what we NEED
 3. He gives it FREELY, but it is far from CHEAP
- C. It is an ETERNAL love
1. He has loved us since BEFORE He CREATED (Eph. 1:4-5; cf. Jer. 31:3)
 2. He will love us THROUGHOUT ETERNITY (Rom. 8:38-39)
- D. It is an IMMUTABLE love (Malachi 3:6)
1. It can never INCREASE, since it is already PERFECT
 2. It can never DECREASE, since it is FOUNDED in His CHARACTER
- E. It is a POWERFUL love
1. It QUICKENS us from spiritual DEATH (Rom. 3:10-12; Eph. 2:1-5)
 2. It OVERCOMES our stubborn REBELLION (John 6:37, 44; cf. 21:11)
- F. It is an INCOMPREHENSIBLE love (Eph. 3:18-19; cf. Isa. 55:8-9)
1. It ECLIPSES and EXCEEDS any human LOVE
 2. It SURPASSES human UNDERSTANDING