

“What Is Love?”

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1 John 4:8 *He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*

This message has four parts:

- 1. Something to Commit to.**
- 2. Something to Die for.**
- 3. Something to Live for.**
- 4. Something to Give.**

What is Love?

1. Something to Commit to

When you love someone, it involves commitment.
I can't say "I love you" without some level of commitment.
I would even dare to say you can't have love without commitment.

John 14:15 *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

Just saying, "I love You, Jesus," is not enough. He wants commitment.

1 John 2:3-5 *And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*

How can I truly say I love someone if I'm unwilling to commit to the things that please them?

Marriage is a commitment. If someone loves another and they are willing to spend their lives together, the proof of that love is the commitments they make to each other. If someone is unwilling to commit to marriage, do they truly love you? They could leave at any time. It's easy to quit when there is no commitment. The same is with God, it's easy to quit if you truly don't commit. If you truly don't count the cost and consider what you're really getting into, it's easy to just walk away.

The world will teach you to say, try it for a while and if you don't like it just quit. It's like trading in your old car for a new one. I will take the one that doesn't make as much noise.

True love won't cause you to quit, it will cause you to be even more committed. You will not want to let that love go.

So what is Love? Something to commit to.

2. Something to Die for

Love is something to die for. If someone broke in to my home and was going to harm my family, they would have to kill me first. I'm willing to lay down my life if it ever comes down to it, because of love.

Romans Chapter 5:1-10 *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

Love is worth dying for.

Parrish asked Easter Sunday. "Why would God do this for us?" He did it because love was something to die for.

You see love is something to die for.

3. Something to Live for.

I have heard of people clinging onto life in hopes to see the ones they love one last time. You see Love is something to live for.

John 12:23-27 *And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour. Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.*

Galatians 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

1 John 4:9 *In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.*

Love is something to live for.

4. Something to Give

Love is something to give.

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

Abraham was told to give up his son, God commanded him to and he was willing to do it.

Genesis Chapter 22:1-13 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And He said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from Me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

You see God was not only testing Abraham's faith, but his love. Notice he told his son in Verse 8 God will provide himself a lamb. God was willing to give for love.

Luke Chapter 6:27-38 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also. Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again. And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Loving your enemies is not easy, is it?

We were once the enemies of God and God loved us. You see love is something to give. We as humans put limitations on love, don't we? God doesn't.

John 13:31-35 Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God be glorified in him, God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightway glorify him. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you. A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one

another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

After Judas left, Jesus gave this new commandment. Remember we talked earlier about love is something to commit to.

You see love is something to give to one another.

Why would this be a new commandment? Why would He wait until now to give it?

The only way people are truly going to see the love of God, is how we give that love one to another. That is agape love. The love that you would be willing to die for.

So back to the theme verse for the month:

1 John 4:8 *He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*

So my last question is: What is love? God is love.

