



- We'll never fully know our purpose, our worth, our value, our significance until we discover who **God is**.

18 ...may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high his love really is; 19 and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it. And so at last you will be filled up with God himself. Ephesians 3:18-19 (TLB)

- God wants everyone to **discover** and **experience** His love for ourselves.

#### Types of Love:

- PHILEO = **Brotherly** love.
- EROS = **Passionate** love.
- AGAPE = **Unconditional God** love.

#### God's love is not:

- God's love is not defined by our **past**.
- God's love is not **earned**.
- God's love is not based on our **performance**.

#### A common misunderstanding:

- God loving you doesn't mean you're in **relationship** with God.

- Relationship with God is **conditional**.

9 If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9 (NLT)

14 If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. 15 But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins. Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT)

21 The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You've got to love both. 1 John 4:21 (MSG)

- God's Love makes a relationship **possible**.

8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Romans 5:8 (NLT)

35 It makes no difference who you are or where you're from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open. Acts 10:35 (MSG)

#### Understanding God's love:

- God loves **everyone** the **same**.

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 3:16 (NIV)

4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

8 The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. 9 The LORD is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation. Psalm 145:8-9 (NLT)

- Love isn't just something God **does**, it's **who God is**.

8 ... God is love. 1 John 4:8 (NLT)

- God's love gives us **free will**.

19 Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!

20 You can make this choice by loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life... Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (NLT)

- God's love is **sacrificial**.

9 This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. 10 This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God. 1 John 4:9-10 (MSG)

#### Responding to God's Love:

- Love others with the same love that **God** has **loved** you.

7 My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. 8 The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God is love—so you can't know him if you don't love.

1 John 4:7-8 (MSG)

19 We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19 (NIV)

#### Have Questions? Text them to: (559)-464-5754

##### Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What's one point from the talk that really stood out to you? What is one scripture that spoke to you?
- Why do you think that people outside the church have a problem with God's love? Do you think they have a problem with God loving them?
- Do you find it difficult to believe that God loves you unconditionally? What does unconditionally mean? What does it not mean?
- While God's love is unconditional, relationship with God is conditional. Why is that important to understand? What does that mean to you? Do you find that difficult to accept?
- Why does God love everyone the same? Are there benefits to having a relationship with God that outsiders don't have?(The answer is yes BTW) What are some of them?
- Why is free will so important in our relationship with God? What does it say about God's love for us?
- How do we love others with unconditional love?
- How do we tap into that source?

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