



# LOVE SO AMAZING

1 Jn. 4:7-10, 16, 19

2022 THEME

1 Jn. 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for **God is love.**

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.

10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that **he loved us**, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. .

16 And we have known and believed **the love that God hath to us. God is love;** and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

19 We love **him**, because he first loved us.

Our theme for 2022 is...

## LOVE SO AMAZING

How do you define love?

Love, according to the dictionary, is defined as follows:

### noun

a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person.

a feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection, as for a parent, child, or friend.

sexual passion or desire.

### verb (used with object), loved, lov·ing.

to have love or affection for:

to have a profoundly tender, passionate affection for (another person). <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/love>

❖ The English word *love* is a vague expression:

- I love my mate;
- I love my child;
- I love pizza;
- I love summertime;
- I love my dog;
- I love ping pong;
- I love my church.

❖ The Greek language uses different words of expression:

## The 7 Greek Words For Love

1. Eros: romantic, passionate love. ...
2. Philia: intimate, authentic friendship. ...
3. Ludus: playful, flirtatious love. ...
4. Storge: unconditional, familial love. ...
5. Philautia: self-love. ...
6. Pragma: committed, companionate love. ...
7. Agápe: empathetic, self-sacrificial love.

<https://www.wellandgood.com/good-advice/greek-words-for-love/>

❖ Love, according to the Bible, is the deepest and most meaningful expression of affinity.

❖ Consider how biblical love is connected to self-sacrifice:

Jn. 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.

Jn. 15:13 **Greater love hath no man than this**, that a man **lay down his life** for his friends.

❖ As we begin looking at God's love and how amazing it is, may the Lord give us a greater understanding of the profundity of our privilege to know Him and His love.

Jn. 15:9 As the Father hath loved me, **so have I loved you:**  
continue ye in my love.

- ❖ We should have long ago stopped trying to define God and His love on our very partial understandings of human love and human feelings.
- ❖ As we consider the passage in 1 Jn. 4, we observe that God's love is unconditional; it cannot be compelled, manipulated, or predetermined if it is to be genuine love.
- ❖ Spiritual love is the ultimate expression of freedom: freely given and freely received.
- ❖ Let's consider how "love" is revealed in 1 Jn. 4.

# I. LOVE SO AMAZING IN RECONCILIATION

## A. Sin Separates Mankind from God

- ❖ All of mankind is born into this world as sinners, separated from God.

Isa. 59:1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

2 But **your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you**, that he will not hear. (See Rom. 3:10, 23, Titus 3:5.)



Eph. 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, **for his great love wherewith he loved us,**

5 **Even when we were dead in sins,** hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Rom. 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time **Christ died for the ungodly.**

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

8 But **God commendeth his love toward us,** in that, **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

❖ God's love motivates propitiation for sin, leading to reconciliation.

1 Jn. 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

❖ Nothing nor no one can eradicate mankind from sin, except the Lord Jesus Christ!

B. Sin Surely Manifested before God

Col. 1:21 And you, that were sometime **alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works**, yet now hath he reconciled

- ❖ Imagine standing before our congregation and all of your sins, both public and private, would be revealed before everyone –
  - angry words spoken to a mate, a child, a stranger
  - stolen items revealed
  - foul language used
  - pornography or inappropriate movies exposed
  - secret sins of shame made known

Isa. 64:6 **But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags;** and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

❖ Sin is so offensive to God that mankind is an offense to Him.

Psa. 7:11 God judgeth the righteous, and **God is angry with the wicked every day.**

Jn. 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but **the wrath of God abideth on him.**

❖ God's amazing love is the reason our sins are forgiven and we are reconciled to Him!

Isa. 38:17 Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but **thou hast in love to my soul** *delivered it* from the pit of corruption: **for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.**

Psa. 103:12 **As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.**

## II. LOVE SO AMAZING IN REALIZATION

### A. Realizing the Manifestation of Salvation

❖ Mankind is too often most ignorant of being separated from God because of sin.

❖ In spite of man's ignorance, God reveals His amazing love through the work of Jesus Christ.

1 Jn. 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.**  
10 **Herein is love,** not that we loved God, but that **he loved us,** and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. ...

- ❖ God's love is so amazing that He provided everything mankind needs for all eternity.
- ❖ Religious works are arrogant distractions, useless in attempting to earn salvation, detracting from the true gospel of God's grace and so amazing love!

Jn. 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

❖ As we embrace the Lord Jesus Christ, we begin to understand the value of salvation.

1 Jn. 4:16 And we have known and believed **the love that God hath to us. God is love**; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

19 We love **him**, because he first loved us.

## B. Realizing the Means of Sonship

❖ When a sinner realizes the condition of being lost, repents and puts faith in Christ as the only Savior, then the reality of reconciliation is understood and appreciated.



1 Jn. 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the **sons of God**: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

## Conclusion

2 Cor. 5:14 For **the love of Christ constraineth us**; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

15 And *that* **he died for all**, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

17 Therefore **if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18 And all things *are* of **God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation**;

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath **committed unto us the word of reconciliation.**

20 **Now then we are ambassadors for Christ,** as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, **be ye reconciled to God.**

# WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

Isaac Watts

1. When I survey the wondrous  
cross  
On which the Prince of glory  
died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my  
pride.

2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should  
boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my  
God!  
All the vain things that charm  
me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

3. See from His head, His hands,  
His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled  
down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow  
meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a  
crown?

**4. Were the whole realm of  
nature mine,  
That were a present far too  
small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my  
all.**

[https://library.timelesstruths.org/music/When\\_I\\_Survey\\_the\\_Wondrous\\_Cross/](https://library.timelesstruths.org/music/When_I_Survey_the_Wondrous_Cross/)