

The Greatest Love

KNOWING GOD'S LOVE & LIVING IT



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The Greatest Love: Knowing God's LOVE and Living It

Introduction: Frank Sinatra sang about a wonderful, human love. But today, we look to the source of all love; the love of God. It's a love that doesn't just make us feel good; it transforms us. We're going to unpack that love using a simple acronym, L.O.V.E., so we can remember it, receive it, and reflect it in our daily lives.

L: Looking with Grace

This is about God's attentive, knowing, and gracious way that He sees us. He doesn't just look at us; He looks on us with love; with His kind of love.

1 Samuel 16:7 *But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'*

When Samuel was looking for a king, God chose David, the youngest, because He saw his heart. God's look penetrates our exterior and sees our true potential. (1 Samuel 16:1-13)

John 20:29 *Then Jesus told him, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.'*

Jesus said this to Thomas after His resurrection. God's gracious love blesses us even in our moments of doubt, inviting us into faith.

Hebrews 4:16 (NIV) *Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

Because we are loved on with grace, we can look back at Him with confidence, not shame. We can approach Him without any sense of guilt.

O: Offering Forgiveness

God's love is fundamentally an act of offering. He offered His Son, and in Him, He offers us complete forgiveness and reconciliation.

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

This is the core of the gospel. God's offer of love and forgiveness was made not because we were good, but while we were still opposed to Him.

Ephesians 1:7 *He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.*

Forgiveness is not free; it was purchased at the highest cost. God's offer is one of immense value and kindness.

Ephesians 4:32 *Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.*

Our response to this offered forgiveness is to become offerors ourselves. Just as the woman who washed Jesus' feet loved much because she was forgiven much, we are to extend forgiveness to others. (Luke 7:36-50)

V: Vow of Sacrifice

God's love is a sacred vow, a promise sealed with sacrifice. He valued us enough to give everything, and calls us to a life of sacrificial love in return.

1 John 3:1a *See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!*

Our value is rooted in our identity as God's cherished children. His vow to us made this relationship possible.

1 John 3:16 *We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.*

This defines love's vow. Jesus fulfilled it on the Cross. Our response is to live a life of "giving up" our selfishness for the good of others, just as the Good Samaritan did. (Luke 10:25-37)

Philippians 2:4 *Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.*

Practical, daily sacrifice means actively looking to lift others up, showing them they are valued by God and by us.

E: Eternal Commitment

God's love is not a fleeting feeling; it is an everlasting covenant. It is a promise that never ends, which secures our future and changes how we live today.

Jeremiah 29:11 *'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord. 'They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.'*

God spoke this to His people in exile, a promise of His committed, good plans for them despite their circumstances.

Romans 8:38 *And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow, not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.*

This is the unshakable promise. No force in creation can break God's committed love for us in Christ.

Hebrews 10:23 *Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.*

Our response to His eternal commitment is faithful endurance. Like Noah, who kept building the ark for decades on the promise of God, we build our lives on His trustworthy promises. (Genesis chapters 6-9)

Conclusion: God's love is a present reality. He Looks on you with grace, He has Offered you complete forgiveness, He made a Vow of sacrifice for you, and He makes an Eternal commitment to you. This is the love that saves us. Now, go and be people of L.O.V.E. Look at others with grace. Offer forgiveness quickly. Live by a Vow of sacrifice. And show committed love that endures. Let the world know the greatest love story ever told, through your life.