

## Colossians 3:16

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,  
teaching and admonishing one another  
in all wisdom,  
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,  
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*



Who is God? What is He like? Can He be known? These are the most important questions in the universe. The good news is God has answered these questions by revealing Himself through His attributes. The most important thing we can do in the universe is grow in our knowledge of God. We have been created by God to know God. For the season of Lent our devotions will be on knowing God through His attributes.

### Love

We don't say love is God, or God is loving, but God is love. It is His nature, His essence. That God is love is one of the greatest realities of the universe.

Love is active and all of God's activity is loving. He actively loves us, suffers for us, fights for us, defends us, pursues us with a jealous love, disciplines us, and is tender toward us. Love is the cause of all God's actions in human history, whether creating, ruling, judging or saving.

Love is giving and God is an overflowing giver. He is the fountain of everything true and good and beautiful in the world. God's love is perfect and casts out all fear. If you believe that God loves you and has nothing but good for you then all fear vanishes. If God is for us, who can be against us?

### Scripture on God as a God of love

*Exodus 34:6-7* The Lord passed before [Moses] and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.

*Psalms 63:3* Your steadfast love is better than life.

*Psalms 86:15* But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

*Psalms 107:8-9* Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,  
for his wondrous works to the children of man!  
<sup>9</sup> For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

*Isaiah 54:10* "For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

*Zephaniah 3:17* The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.

*John 3:16-17* For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**John 15:12-13** *This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.*

**Romans 5:8** *God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

**Romans 8:35, 37-39** *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ... <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Galatians 2:20** *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

**Ephesians 2:4-5** *But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.*

**Ephesians 3:17-19** *... so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

**I John 3:1** *See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.*

**I John 4:7-10** *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

## **Song**

**Psalm 59:16** *But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.*

### ***How Deep The Father's Love For Us***

How deep the Father's love for us,  
How vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss –  
The Father turns His face away,  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,  
My sin upon His shoulders;  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life –  
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,  
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer;  
But this I know with all my heart –  
His wounds have paid my ransom.

("How Deep Our Father's Love For Us" words and music by Stuart Townend © 1995 Thankyou Music CCLI #358926, Streaming License 20317932)

## **Prayer**

*II Chronicles 7:14* *If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

### ***The Love Without Measure or End, prayer by Charles Spurgeon:***

We thank Thee, Lord, for the love without beginning which chose us even before the earth was, for the love without measure which entered into covenant for our redemption, for the love without failure which in due time appeared in the person of Christ and wrought out our redemption, for that love which has never changed, though we have wandered, that love which abides faithful even when we are unfaithful.

O God, we praise Thee for keeping us till this day and for the full assurance that Thou wilt never let us go. Some can say, "He restoreth my soul," they had wandered, wandered sadly, but Thou hast brought them back again. Lord, keep us from wandering, then will we sing, "Unto Him that is able to keep us from stumbling and to present us faultless before His presence with exceeding joy."

May the love of the Lamb make our faith in Christ unshakable, our witness more bold, our love more unconditional. In his name we pray, Amen.