

what we believe

Dr. Rich Wilkerson | November 12, 2023 | Part 12

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD IS LOVE!

That's right! Nothing else that we believe here at Trinity Church makes any difference if our God — is not the God of Love!

1 John 4:7-8, 16-19 — Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.

¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

This passage was written by John the Evangelist. He's also known as John the Revelator. He wrote The Book of the Revelation yet his most famous moniker is John the Beloved.

This Apostle knew about LOVE. And it is he that tells us GOD IS LOVE.

OUR GOD IS LOVE

Every journalist is always interested in these six words: Who What Where When Why and How?

When writing about love you would want to know those six answers as it relates to subject of LOVE.

WHO is LOVE? GOD

Read 1 John 4:8

WHAT is LOVE? GOD

Read 1 John 4:8 again

WHERE can I find LOVE? GOD

Psalms 139:7-10 — King David said

⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

WHEN can I connect with LOVE? GOD is Ready NOW

2 Corinthians 6:2 — *Paul said ...* For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

WHY is GOD LOVE??....

Because only GOD is perfect in LOVING.

HOW can I experience GOD'S LOVE?

God says in Jeremiah 33:3 — Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

That's how a journalist can report on the fact that GOD IS LOVE!!

Here's a Question: **What does it mean that GOD IS LOVE?**

Let's look at how the Bible describes love, and then we will see a few ways in which God is the essence of love.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a — Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸ Love never fails.

This is St. Paul's description of love, and because God is love, this is what GOD is like.

Think about God's love. In love, God does not force himself on anyone. Those who come do so in response to His love. In love, God shows kindness to all. In love, Jesus went about doing good to everyone without partiality. In love, Jesus did not covet what others had. He lived a humble life without complaining. In love, Jesus did not brag about who he was in the flesh, although he could have overpowered anyone he ever came in contact with.

In love, Jesus, willingly obeyed his Father in heaven.

John 14:31 — The world must learn that I love the Father, and that I do exactly what my father has commanded me.

John 3:16 — 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.

If you feel lost, if you feel like the lousiest sinner who ever walked the planet, I've got news for you today!

St. Paul said in **Romans 5:8** — But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

We can see from these verses that it is God's greatest desire that we join Him in His eternal home, Heaven.

He has made the way possible by paying the price for our sins. He loves us because He chose to — as an act of His will.

Love forgives.

The Bible says in **1 John 1:9** — If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Act of His Will. That line means that....

If I LOVE You — All of my choices as they relate to YOU will always be for your HIGHEST GOOD and BEST INTEREST.

So when the scripture tells us that GOD IS LOVE... God is saying to you.. ALL OF MY CHOICES AS THEY RELATE TO YOU, will always be for your highest good and best interest.

You say "Well Pastor Rich, I don't think God loves me. Nothing ever seems to go right!" That surprises me. Are you a Christian? God loves everyone but especially those who call HIM Lord. Are you daily in His word and taking your time to pray? ... because he talks about that in 2 Chronicles 7:14. Are you doing everything to serve your fellow man or woman? Because when I'm feeling down I try to get my eyes and focus off of me and onto others who are less fortunate.

What am I wanting to say? Are you daily following the Lord with all of your heart? If you are and you've gone through a tough patch, I don't believe the Lord is mad at you. I believe the Lord is testing you in order to elevate you in this life to the next level of influence and to be a greater blessing.

Why do I say that? Because GOD IS LOVE! GOD LOVES YOU! He doesn't act towards you out of hatred. NO! NEVER!

Here's what the scripture says about our God ...

Psalm 34:18 — The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

GOD IS LOVE!

LOVE SPARES NO EXPENSE OR PERSONAL SACRIFICE!