

GOD'S LOVE HAS YOUR NAME ON IT

Theos eimi Agape = "God is Love"

 1 John 4:9–16 (NIV84) ⁸ "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us. ¹³ We know that we live in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. 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 him."

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW ABOUT HIS LOVE?

1. God wants me to know that His love is **personal**.

 John 10:3b (NIV84) "...He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out."

 Isaiah 49:15–16a (NCV) "The Lord answers, "Can a woman forget the baby she nurses? Can she feel no kindness for the child to which she gave birth? Even if she could forget her children, I will not forget you. ¹⁶ See, I have written your name on my hand."

 Revelation 2:17 (NIV84) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it."

2. God wants me to know that His love is **proven**.

 John 10:11 (NIV84) "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."

 1 John 3:16 (NIV84) "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers."

 Romans 5:8 (NIV84) "...God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

3. God wants me to know that His love is **permanent**.

 Jeremiah 31:3 (NIV84) "The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness."

 Romans 8:38-39 (NIV84) "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO ABOUT HIS LOVE?

1. God wants me to **receive** His love.

 John 3:16-17 (NKJV) "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

 Romans 6:23 (NIV84) "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

 Romans 10:9–10 (NIV84) "...if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

2. God wants me to **reflect** His love.

 John 15:9 (NIV84) "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love."

 2 Corinthians 3:18b (LB) "...we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like Him."

 Malachi 3:3a (NIV84) "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver..."

Digging Deeper: God knows everything about you and loves you anyway. Pretty cool, isn't it? How does it make you feel to know that God loves you that much? In a world as crowded as ours it's easy to feel lost in it. Describe how does it make you feel to know that God knows where you are, knows who you are, and loves you just as you are? We've all lost love in life. However, the love of God is not something that we will ever lose. —Why do you think we sometimes feel unloved by God even though that is never the case? Have you fully accepted the love of God? Do you accurately reflect the love of God?

