

# WHAT IS LOVE?

## LOVE IS

- Living for God, living in God, and God living in you
- Trusting in God, His heavenly will, and eternal purposes
- Making God THE priority above everything else
- Cherishing whatever God cherishes
- Time spent in the presence of God
- Delightful and beautiful to God
- Exchanging guilt for His glory
- Found completely and abundantly in God's perfect Word
- Doing whatever is right, often in spite of how you feel
- A choice to obey God and His Word, no matter how you feel
- Sacrificial (God and others are more important than yourself)
- A purposeful action (based on God's action and truth)
- Giving – with little or no concern with what you are receiving
- Christ and others focused (asks, “what, how, and why am I giving?”)
- Fearless (more concerned with what happens to others, with little, if any, concern over what happens to yourself)
- Wise (faithfully living according to God's “big picture” and grand agenda)
- From God first and foremost
- Commitment
- Compassionate and gracious
- Concrete, tangible, anyone can do it
- Consistently and practically applying God's desire and design (i.e., putting His Word into practice)
- Merciful, quick to forgive
- Patient and kind
- Quick to listen and understand

## LOVE IS NOT

- Living for yourself and the things of this world
- Trying to fit God and His will into your nearsighted will
- Giving anything (people or things) priority over God
- Cherishing whatever the world or your flesh cherishes
- Time spent with anything that distracts you from God
- Pleasing to your flesh, the world, or Satan
- Based on your worth, abilities, strength, or goodness
- Found in the “wisdom” and ways of the world
- Something you do according to your feelings
- Necessarily a feeling
- Self-preserving (you are most important)
- Passive (“good intentions” without intentional actions)
- Getting – with little or no concern with what you are giving
- Self-focused (asks, “what am I getting?”)
- Fearful (more concerned with what happens to you, with little, if any, concern over what happens to others)
- Foolish (living by sight and for immediate gratification)
- From you first
- Temporary, fleeting, comes and goes (fall in/out of love)
- Based primarily on one's performance, the letter of the law
- An elusive concept that is too complex to do
- Random “hit and miss” whenever the mood strikes you, or when it is easy for you to do
- Unforgiving, bitter, resentful
- Easily angered and rude
- Slow to listen and understand