

Building a Life of Love *God's Radical Love For Us*

Intro: Love can make people do a lot of crazy things. Throughout history, there are plenty of well-known crazy love stories. Maybe you're familiar with some of these. Romeo and Juliet / Cleopatra and Mark Antony / Lancelot and Guinevere / Taj Mahal – which is one of the most recognizable structures in the world was built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife who died giving birth. It is a symbol of his eternal love for her. It seems that some of the most famous love stories ended badly. How about one with a good ending!

- There is another historical love story though that has an amazing ending. It's the story of God's love for us!

God has done some remarkable things to demonstrate His love for us. The bible is a story about God's radical love for people. God wants you to know just how much He loves you. He has a crazy love for you that is extreme. It's beyond Romeo and Juliet's and it's more extreme than the Taj Mahal. Today I want to share with you just how crazy God's love is for you!

1. You Cannot Make God Stop Loving You

Rom. 8:38-39 "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither 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." (NIV)

1. How does God feel about you today? Do you think God is angry with you...disinterested in you...apathetic towards you...doesn't want to hear from you...judgmental of you? Is this how you think God feels about you today?
 2. The truth is that God loves you today and there is nothing you can do to stop Him from loving you. Nothing can separate you from God loving you. Not your behavior / past / attitude / broken relationships / not this world / not circumstances / not even Satan or hell itself.
 3. God's love for you is not based upon your performance / behavior / success / accomplishments / your obedience / your religious activities or lack of activity. God's love for you is completely unconditional. It is founded completely on Him and nothing to do with us!
 4. If you think that because of your life, your past, your mistakes that God doesn't love you...nothing could be further from the truth.
- Over the years I have had countless conversations with people about coming to church. Often they respond by saying something about how God wouldn't like it and the walls would cave in or a lightning bolt would zap them...etc...
5. This simply reveals what they believe about how God views them. They've done too much and gone too far. Not true. Maybe this is how you feel today. God's love for you

is as constant today as the first day you were born. Nothing has stopped His love for you.

- This is what God’s crazy love for you looks like.

2. You Cannot Diminish God’s Love He Has For You

Eph. 3:17-19 “... And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” (NIV) God’s love for you is BIG!

Jer. 31:3 “The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying:”I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.” (NIV)

Ps. 103:11 “For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;” (NIV) That’s pretty big!

- My girls and I used to play a game about how much do we love one another. “Daddy, I love you this much. I would say I love you this much. As they got older, our game included bigger descriptions – share
 1. If we asked God how much He loves us, it would be beyond what we could fully understand. God’s love for you is infinite. It’s everlasting. It’s eternal. It’s as big as He is. It is beyond our human comprehension.
 2. The amazing thing about the size of God’s love for us is that we can never diminish it. There is nothing we can do to limit the vastness of God’s love for us. God has an unending, unstoppable, eternal supply of it for each one of us.
 3. Some people feel as if they can get to the end of God’s love for them...God’s love runs out. God has had enough. As if our bad behavior can use up all of God’s love. Not so!
 4. Maybe you feel as if you’ve ran out of chances with God. That somehow your mistakes have diminished God’s love for you in some way. God loves you less today because of some mistakes or behaviors you regret.
 5. God’s love for you has not diminished one bit since the moment you took your first breath. Now that’s some crazy love!

3. You Cannot Stop God’s Love from Pursuing You

John 3:16-17 “For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.” (NLT)

Rom. 5:8 “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (NIV)

I John 4:10 “This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.” (NLT)

1. We need to see the word of God as a love story. God loving the people in the world that He created so much, He did something that appeared crazy. He didn’t abandon the world, He invaded it! He didn’t condemn the world...He saved it!

2. God the Father, sent God the Son to invade this fallen sinful world to show just how much He loves us. God didn't ask us to try to reach up to Him. He became a man and reached out to us.
 3. The God who created the vastness of the universe with billions of galaxies...innumerable stars and planets with His spoken word, limits Himself by becoming a man and living with the people He created and loves. WOW!
 4. Then, He is willing to die for those He loves on a Roman cross to provide a payment for sin. This is why Jesus died on a cross. Jesus' death was a substitute for us. He took our place.
 5. The resurrection is the proof that God's love really did reach down to us. He really did take our place. Our sin really can be forgiven. Eternity is real. Jesus' resurrection is an eternal statement that God loves you. That every promise He gave is true.
 6. Jesus' resurrection is the ultimate statement to mankind that God wants a relationship with every person He made and that relationship is discovered through His Son.
- The resurrection of Jesus is the eternal "I told you so." What do I mean? Haven't you ever had someone not believe you only later to be proven right? It becomes an "I told you so moment."
 - It's like in marriage, how many times I am convinced something is NOT in the refrigerator. I looked and it's not there. My wife will walk over and within 2 seconds find it. Then, she gives me this, "I told you so look." She's much too wise to say it anymore!
 - The resurrection is God saying; "See, I told you so. Jesus is my Son. I did reach out to you. I do love you. My promises are real. Forgiveness is real. Heaven is real. I really can change your life. I really can be found by every person; and I will never stop reaching out to you.

4. You Cannot Stop God's Love From Wanting A Relationship With You

- Everything that God's love has compelled Him to do is so we can have a relationship with Him. This is why His love for us never stops reaching out.

1 John 3:1 "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (NIV)

Rom. 8:15 "So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." (NLT)

1. The greatest desire of God's heart is to have a relationship with you. He has lavished His love upon us so that we would become part of His family...adopted as His sons And daughters. (The term...children of God...adopted as His own children.)
2. God lavishes His love on us in a crazy manner in hopes that we will in turn love Him back. God's love for us is relentless because His longing for a relationship with us is relentless as well.
3. This is why God will never leave you alone. There were times in my life when I

wished God would just leave me alone. Ever been there? You want to do your own thing, go your own way, follow your own path; yet God just won't leave you alone.

4. He just continues to do things to remind you that He's there...could be a song on the radio / conversation with a friend or even a stranger / some weird circumstance that happened and you knew it was God. God is relentless!
5. God will never give up on desiring a relationship with you. In fact, if you're running from God today all I can say is you might as well give in. WHY? You can't outrun Him. He'll just wear you down. That's how crazy His love is for you. He won't ever stop! He will never stop until you believe and receive Him.

John 1:12 "But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God." (NLT)

6. God is relentless in His pursuit of us waiting until we finally believe in Him and accept His crazy love for us.

BUT all this can still leave us confused. The way we understand and experience love in this life is not like this. This type of love feels foreign to us. So let me explain one last thing about how the bible uses the world love.

5. You Cannot Understand God's Love with this Word Alone

The English language is far too limited and non-expressive to fully describe how the Hebrew and Greek words used for love. In English we have one word...LOVE. I can love my car, my boat, my dinner, love my spouse, love my job, etc.... It's all the same word. Therefore, it loses its meaning.

- Hebrew word for love is "Hesed."

The Hebrew word "**hesed**" is a rich, layered term that doesn't translate cleanly into a single English word. It's often rendered as "*lovingkindness*," "*steadfast love*," "*mercy*," or "*faithful love*," but each of those only captures part of its meaning.

- At its core, **hesed refers to a deep, enduring form of love expressed through action**, especially within a relationship or covenant. It's not just a feeling—it's loyalty, commitment, and generosity all wrapped together.

A few key aspects help clarify it:

- **Relational loyalty:** Hesed often appears in the context of a committed relationship—between people, or between God and humanity. It implies sticking with someone, even when it's difficult.
- **Active kindness:** It's love that shows up in concrete ways—helping, protecting, forgiving, giving.
- **Faithfulness beyond obligation:** Hesed goes beyond what's required. It's doing good not because you have to, but because you are devoted.

You can think of **hesed as love that stays, acts, and gives—no matter what.**

- The Greek word for love is “Agape”
- The Greek word “**agápē**” is one of several words for love in ancient Greek, but it carries a very specific meaning—especially in the context of the New Testament.
- At its core, **agápē refers to a selfless, unconditional kind of love**. It’s not based on attraction, emotion, or mutual benefit. Instead, it’s a deliberate choice to seek the good of another person, even at a cost to oneself.

Here are the key dimensions of *agápē*:

- **Self-giving love:** It prioritizes the well-being of others without expecting anything in return.
- **Unconditional:** It isn’t dependent on how worthy or lovable the other person seems.
- **Active, not just emotional:** Like *hesed*, it’s something you do, not just something you feel.
- **Moral and volitional:** It’s rooted in decision and character more than instinct or passion.

In early Christian texts, *agápē* becomes the central word for the kind of love God shows to humanity and that people are called to show one another.

- A helpful way to think about *agápē* is:
 - Not “I love you because...”
 - But “I choose to love you, regardless.”

It’s often contrasted with other Greek words for love like:

eros (romantic, desire-based love)

philia (friendship, mutual affection)

- So while those can depend on feeling or connection, **agápē is love as a commitment to act for someone else’s good—steadily, sacrificially, and intentionally.**

Why is this so important? Because this is the type of love we are designed for. Our literal DNA is longing for this. It is this type of love that has the power to change our lives. When the truth of the word of God is combined with our need for “Hesed” and “Agape” love, we are literally transformed. This is God’s design. No amount of bible studies can substitute for “Hesed” and “Agape.” We are called to love God and love others not because it’s simply a good idea. It’s the only way we are transformed. Can you see why the bible highlights relationships so much and why Satan tries to destroy them so aggressively.