

WE LOVE GOD

MATTHEW 22:34-38; 1 JOHN 4:16-19
TODD DUGARD // JANUARY 16, 2022



We love God with all that we are (Matthew 22:37; cf. Mark 12:30) obeying the great commandment (Matthew 22:36, 38) understanding that he is love (1John 4:16) and because he first loved us (1John 4:19).

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you define love for God? In what ways it is different than the love we have for one another?
2. How do the concepts of mind, heart, soul, strength communicate the sense of a whole person, committed to loving God?
3. Jesus brought the command to love God forward so that Christians would strive to be wholistically devoted to God. What signs may indicate that a person has held back part of themselves in their relationship with God?

The piling up of the terms “heart,” “soul,” and “mind” is just a way of saying “with your whole being” and is not intended to designate the component parts of human nature—J. A. Brooks.

4. Read 1 John 4:16. What has God done that epitomizes the concept of love? (Romans 5:8)

5. 1 John 4:19 explains that our love for him and others comes from having first been loved by him. Why do you love God? What activities most affect your sense of love for God, either negatively or positively?
6. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 offers an amazing definition of God's love. It inspires our church to adopt Christ's character as we worship God and relate to each other. You can write the verse below as a definition of how you want to love others because of God's love for you. Here's an example using Harvest. (*You can replace "Harvest" with your name, your family, small group, or ministry team.*)

"Harvest is patient and kind; Harvest does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. Harvest does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; Harvest does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Harvest bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things"

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_____ is not arrogant or rude. _____ does not insist on its own way; _____ is not irritable or resentful; _____ does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. _____ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.