

## Doctrine of the Love of God

1. The love of God must be considered from the perspective of God's love for individuals, and their love for Him.
2. God's love for individuals is made manifest in the work of Christ at Calvary, in the gift of eternal life, and in sending Christ to die while we were yet sinners.
  - The Work of Christ at Calvary. *1 John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*
  - The Gift of Eternal Life. *1 John 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.*
  - Christ was Given While We were Yet Sinners. *Titus 3:3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. 4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,*
3. The Holy Spirit will instill and make known the love of God in the heart of the believer.
  - *Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*
4. It is possible to know if an individual does, or does not, have the love of God in their life.
  - *John 5:42 But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.*
  - *1 John 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?*
5. The love of God can be replaced by rules and regulations, or rituals without any reality.
  - *Luke 11:42 But woe unto you, Pharisees! For ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.*
6. Nothing will ever stop God from loving the believer.
  - *Romans 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

7. It is good to bless others by longing for the love of God to be with them.
  - *2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.*
8. The heart of the believer needs to be directed into the love of God.
  - *2 Thessalonians 3:5 And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.*
9. Love for God is perfected by keeping His Word. The more a person obeys the Lord, the more love for God he will have.
  - *1 John 2:5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*
10. A simple gospel definition is given of what it means to truly love God: we keep His commandments.
  - *1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.*
11. While salvation is of the Lord, a holy responsibility is placed upon the believer to keep oneself in the sphere of the love of God. This is done through faithful obedience.
  - *Jude 21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*
12. Love for God is the basic obligation for every person.
  - *Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment.*
13. On a practical basis, the following will enhance keeping one's self in the sphere of the love of God.
  - We can learn to love God more by remembering His love for us. *1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.*
  - We can learn to love God more by meditating on His great and loving acts towards us. *Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

- We can learn to love God more by gospel obedience. The more a person obeys, the closer they grow to the Lord. The commandments of the Lord are not burdensome. *1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.*
- We can learn to love God more by making a conscious effort to draw near to Him. *James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*
- We can learn to love God more by studying His Word and remembering His faithfulness. *Psalms 119:89 For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven. 90 Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth.*
- We can learn to love God more through prayer, which is a conversation among friends. *Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*