

# A biblical guide to love!

Super Saturday Jesus Rally  
March 7, 2015

## Agenda

1. Record the call
2. Introductions
3. Songs -
  - a. Good to me
  - b. The Solid Rock
  - c. What a Friend We Have in Jesus
4. Prayer
5. Welcome
  - a. Who I am and what is the Bible Team (see previous call)
6. Study - **A biblical guide to love**
  - a. **The types of love**
    - i. **As read by Jon Eilers**
    - ii. **agape love will be our focus today**
  - b. **God's Definition of love / "the love chapter"**

**1 Corinthians 13** If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. 3 If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

8 Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! 9 Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! 10 But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless.

11 When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. 12 Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

13 Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

**(This chapter isn't just for weddings)**

**Here I think is a good way to summarize love...**

b. **Matthew 7: 12** "Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. **This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.**

## Key love verses:

**1 John 4:** 8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

**Matthew 22:** 36 “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?”  
37 Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.” 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 **The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”**

**What does this tell us? What is God’s highest priority, what does He care about most?**

**How has God shown His love for us?**

[Isaiah 61: 1 / Luke 4:18 He came to set the captives free](#)

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon me,  
for the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted  
and to proclaim that captives will be released  
and prisoners will be freed.

**Romans 5:** 6 When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. 7 Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. 8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. 9 And since we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God’s condemnation. 10 For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. 11 So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

**John 3:** 16 “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

[Luke 1: 68-75 He sent us His Son](#)

**Luke 1:**

68 “Praise the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has visited and redeemed his people.  
69 He has sent us a mighty Savior  
from the royal line of his servant David,  
70 just as he promised  
through his holy prophets long ago.  
71 Now we will be saved from our enemies  
and from all who hate us.  
72 He has been merciful to our ancestors  
by remembering his sacred covenant—  
73 the covenant he swore with an oath  
to our ancestor Abraham.

**74** We have been rescued from our enemies  
so we can serve God without fear,  
**75** in holiness and righteousness  
for as long as we live.

Romans 8: Nothing can separate us 38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Psalm 103**

### **A psalm of David.**

- 1 Let all that I am praise the LORD;  
with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name.
- 2 Let all that I am praise the LORD;  
may I never forget the good things he does for me.
- 3 He forgives all my sins  
and heals all my diseases.
- 4 He redeems me from death  
and crowns me with love and tender mercies.
- 5 He fills my life with good things.  
My youth is renewed like the eagle's!
- 6 The LORD gives righteousness  
and justice to all who are treated unfairly.
- 7 He revealed his character to Moses  
and his deeds to the people of Israel.
- 8 The LORD is compassionate and merciful,  
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.
- 9 He will not constantly accuse us,  
nor remain angry forever.
- 10 He does not punish us for all our sins;  
he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.
- 11 For his unfailing love toward those who fear him  
is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.
- 12 He has removed our sins as far from us  
as the east is from the west.
- 13 The LORD is like a father to his children,  
tender and compassionate to those who fear him.
- 14 For he knows how weak we are;  
he remembers we are only dust.
- 15 Our days on earth are like grass;  
like wildflowers, we bloom and die.
- 16 The wind blows, and we are gone—  
as though we had never been here.
- 17 But the love of the LORD remains forever  
with those who fear him.
- His salvation extends to the children's children
- 18 of those who are faithful to his covenant,  
of those who obey his commandments!
- 19 The LORD has made the heavens his throne;  
from there he rules over everything.
- 20 Praise the LORD, you angels,  
you mighty ones who carry out his plans,  
listening for each of his commands.
- 21 Yes, praise the LORD, you armies of angels  
who serve him and do his will!
- 22 Praise the LORD, everything he has created,  
everything in all his kingdom.  
Let all that I am praise the LORD.

# Psalm 116

1 I love the LORD because he hears my voice  
and my prayer for mercy.  
2 Because he bends down to listen,  
I will pray as long as I have breath!  
3 Death wrapped its ropes around me;  
the terrors of the grave overtook me.  
I saw only trouble and sorrow.  
4 Then I called on the name of the LORD:  
"Please, LORD, save me!"  
5 How kind the LORD is! How good he is!  
So merciful, this God of ours!  
6 The LORD protects those of childlike faith;  
I was facing death, and he saved me.  
7 Let my soul be at rest again,  
for the LORD has been good to me.  
8 He has saved me from death,  
my eyes from tears,  
my feet from stumbling.  
9 And so I walk in the LORD's presence  
as I live here on earth!  
10 I believed in you, so I said,  
"I am deeply troubled, LORD."  
11 In my anxiety I cried out to you,  
"These people are all liars!"  
12 What can I offer the LORD  
for all he has done for me?  
13 I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and praise the LORD's name for saving me.  
14 I will keep my promises to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people.  
15 The LORD cares deeply  
when his loved ones die.  
16 O LORD, I am your servant;  
yes, I am your servant, born into your household;  
you have freed me from my chains.  
17 I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call on the name of the LORD.  
18 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people—  
19 in the house of the LORD  
in the heart of Jerusalem.  
Praise the LORD!

## What is the greatest example of love:

John 15: <sup>13</sup> **There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.**

1 John 3: <sup>16</sup> We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.

## Jesus' new commandment:

**John 13:** <sup>34</sup> **So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. <sup>35</sup> Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."**

**John 15:** <sup>12</sup> **"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. <sup>17</sup> **These things I command you, so that you will love one another.****

Commanding us to love Him??? Isn't this making it obligatory? How is this love?

**John 3: 18** **"There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son.**

***Imagine you and your son by a busy street...***

**How can we love Him in return:**

**1 John 4:** <sup>19</sup> We love each other because he loved us first. <sup>20</sup> If someone says, "I love God," but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? <sup>21</sup> And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.

**Romans 12** And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. <sup>2</sup> Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

**Ephesians 4** Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. <sup>2</sup> Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. <sup>4</sup> For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.

<sup>5</sup> There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
<sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all,  
who is over all, in all, and living through all.

**1 John 4:** <sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

**We can love God by getting to know Him more:**

**Jonah 4** This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry. <sup>2</sup> So he complained to the LORD about it: "Didn't I say before I left home that you would do this, LORD? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people. <sup>3</sup> Just kill me now, LORD! I'd rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen."

<sup>4</sup> The LORD replied, "Is it right for you to be angry about this?"

<sup>5</sup> Then Jonah went out to the east side of the city and made a shelter to sit under as he waited to see what would happen to the city. <sup>6</sup> And the LORD God arranged for a leafy plant to grow there, and soon it spread its broad leaves over Jonah's head, shading him from the sun. This eased his discomfort, and Jonah was very grateful for the plant.

<sup>7</sup> But God also arranged for a worm! The next morning at dawn the worm ate through the stem of the plant so that it withered away. <sup>8</sup> And as the sun grew hot, God arranged for a scorching east wind to blow on Jonah. The sun beat down on his head until he grew faint and wished to die. "Death is certainly better than living like this!" he exclaimed.

<sup>9</sup> Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry because the plant died?"

"Yes," Jonah retorted, "even angry enough to die!"

<sup>10</sup> Then the LORD said, "You feel sorry about the plant, though you did nothing to put it there. It came quickly and died quickly. <sup>11</sup> But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people living in spiritual darkness, not to mention all the animals. Shouldn't I feel sorry for such a great city?"

**What can we learn from this passage about God? How does this help us?**

We know what God cares about. Helps us maintain perspective, brings the bigger picture into focus.

What can we learn from this conversation that might help us love others?

**Can we love others without God? Can we make our own fruit?**

**Galatians 5:** <sup>22</sup> But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. **There is no law against these things!**

**John 15:** <sup>5</sup> "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. <sup>7</sup> But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! <sup>8</sup> When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

## What results from love:

John 14:15 *If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*

## God loves us so much that He tells us not to worry about anything...

**Philippians 4:** <sup>6</sup> Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. <sup>7</sup> Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

**Matthew 6:** <sup>34</sup> *"So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.*

**1 John 4:** <sup>18</sup> Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.

## See also Mark 4:13-20

It appears that, in New Testament times, there were at least four different Greek words that we translate as the English word 'love'. This variety actually helps us in the work of translation because each of the four different Greek words carries a slightly different definition from the other three. This makes it a little clearer as to what the original means. These words were:

1. *EROS*: this Greek word was not used in the New Testament. It refers to sexual love and probably derived its name from the mythical god of love.
2. *STORGE*: This is the type of love signifying the natural affection between kinfolk. This word appears only occasionally in the New Testament and only in compound form.
3. *PHILEO*: This Greek word for *love* signifies, "...spontaneous natural affection, with more feeling than reason" (Elwell, p. 1357). Strong's Exhaustive Concordance defines *phileo* as, "to be a friend to...fond of an individual or object; having affection for (as denoting attachment); a matter of sentiment or feeling".
4. *AGAPE*: This Greek word for love is by far the one that appears most frequently in the New Testament. It is, "...generally assumed to mean moral goodwill which proceeds from esteem, principle, or duty, rather than attraction or charm... [it] means to love the undeserving, despite disappointment and rejection...Though *agape* has more to do with moral principle than with inclination or liking, it never means the cold religious kindness shown from duty alone, as scriptural examples abundantly prove" (Elwell, p. 1357).



**Read more:**

<http://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/different-types-of-love-from-the-bible-a-christian-study/#ixzz3Te3snvUs>