

# WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT

April 19, 2026

1. **John 3:16**
2. Probably the most well-known verse in the Bible
3. Most people (even non-religious) can quote the verse

## **John 3:16**

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

4. Yet, this verse is astoundingly profound.
5. This kind of love is uncommon
6. This isn't Hollywood love
7. This isn't even love towards family
8. This love reaches the pinnacle height of supernatural proportions

## **Romans 5:6–8**

*“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

9. This would be like you choosing to give up your life
  - a. for someone like
  - b. Adolf Hitler
  - c. or Charles Manson
10. Even that is a weak comparison
  - a. Given that God is Absolutely
    - i. Perfect
    - ii. Pure
    - iii. Holy
  - b. We all have been corrupted by sin
  - c. We talked about the scripture last week

**Romans 3:23** – *“All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God”*

11. But when we consider God
  - a. The Bible tells us directly who God is

## **1 John 4:7–8**

*“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”*

## 1 John 4:16

*“God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.”*

### **LET’S LOOK MORE CLOSELY AT GOD’S LOVE**

#### 1. **First of all, GOD’S LOVE FOR MANKIND IS UNCONDITIONAL**

##### **1 Timothy 2:3–6**

*“This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men.”*

- b. God’s Heart is that He wants “all men to be save”
- c. He wants a genuine, personal relationship with everyone
- d. We were created in His image
- e. We were created for the purpose of having a relationship with Him
  - i. Not just right now
  - ii. But for all eternity
- f. God’s grace has been extended to every human being
  1. Grace **isn’t** A universal pass
  2. Given to everyone to get into heaven
  - ii. Grace is simply that the door to God has been opened
    1. Jesus being the sacrificial lamb
      - a. Paying the price for our sins
      - b. By spilling His blood
    2. And opening the door
    3. So that we can have a relationship with God
    4. Access to God is now possible
  - iii. Having forgiveness of sins is
    1. the access pass
    2. Into that open door
  - iv. Available to every living human being

#### 2. **Secondly, GOD’S ACCEPTANCE FOR MANKIND IS CONDITIONAL**

##### **2 Chronicles 15:1–2**

*“The Spirit of God came upon Azariah son of Oded. He went out to meet Asa and said to him, “Listen to me, Asa and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.”*

##### **2 Chronicles 24:20**

*“Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood before the people and said, “This is what God says: ‘Why do you disobey the LORD’s commands? You will not prosper. Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.’”*

### **Hebrews 10:26–27**

*“If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.”*

- a. The consequences of God forsaking us tragic
    - i. Better stated: HORRIFYING
    - ii. That is why we should be studying our Bible
    - iii. We need to know what God expects
    - iv. What exactly is SIN
      1. Which is a total offense to God
      2. Ever been around someone
      3. Who didn’t use deodorant
      4. Totally smells
      5. Makes you want to Puke
      6. That’s a person who deliberately
      7. Or ignorantly keeps on sinning
  - b. What does it mean to “*SEEK HIM*”
    - i. We had better find out
    - ii. The stakes are high
3. **Thirdly, GOD’S LOVE FOR MANKIND IS DURABLE.**
- a. Nothing could ever change the way that God loves us
  - b. Nothing you go through can pull you away from God’s love
    - i. Nothing can separate us from it,
    - ii. nothing can undo it,
    - iii. nothing can destroy it,
    - iv. nothing can diminish it,
    - v. NOTHING.

### **ILLUSTRATION**

- God’s love is amazingly strong and long lasting.
- It takes a licking and comes back ticking.
- There used to be commercials for **Samsonite luggage**.

- **They would do all kinds of things** to a Samsonite suitcase
  - but it just wouldn't tear it up.
- They'd drop it off the top of a car going down the highway,
- they'd slam it around on the back of a truck,
- they even gave one to an ape at the zoo
  - to play with and he threw it all over the place
  - and bounced on it,
  - jumping up and down,
  - but it stood the test.
- That is what God's love is like
  - Nothing can destroy it

### **Romans 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, neither 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.”*

- a. God will never forsake us
  - a. Provided we are among those
    - i. who have walked through
    - ii. the door of GRACE
  - b. Had our sins forgiven

### **Psalm 9:9–10**

*The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.  
Those who know your name will trust in you,  
for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.*

### **Psalm 138:6–8**

*“Though the LORD is on high, he looks upon the lowly, but the proud he knows from afar.  
Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life;  
you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand you save me.  
The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O LORD, endures forever—  
do not abandon the works of your hands.”*

- a. When we go through hard time
- b. He is there with us
- c. Every step of the way

### **John 10:11–14**

*“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So, when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.”*

- d. **When** the wolf (or trouble comes), **Jesus-the good shepherd, won’t run away.**
  - a. That’s good news
  - b. That’s comforting
  - c. The popular poster – “**Footsteps**”

**Psalm 18:4–19**

*“The cords of death entangled me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.*

*The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me.*

*In my distress I called to the LORD; I cried to my God for help.*

*From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears.*

*The earth trembled and quaked, and the foundations of the mountains shook; they trembled because he was angry.*

*Smoke rose from his nostrils;*

*consuming fire came from his mouth, burning coals blazed out of it.*

*He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under his feet.*

*He mounted the cherubim and flew; he soared on the wings of the wind.*

*He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him— the dark rain clouds of the sky.*

*Out of the brightness of his presence clouds advanced, with hailstones and bolts of lightning.*

*The LORD thundered from heaven; the voice of the Most High resounded.*

*He shot his arrows and scattered the enemies, great bolts of lightning and routed them.*

*The valleys of the sea were exposed and the foundations of the earth laid bare at your rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of breath from your nostrils.*

*He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters.*

*He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me.*

*They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the LORD was my support.*

*He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.”*

4. **Forthly, GOD’S LOVE DOES NOT DEPEND ON POSITIVE CIRCUMSTANCES**

- a. **nor** does God’s love **DEFLECT** all difficulty.
- b. **In fact**, sometimes God’s love
  - i. **directs us right into** the storms

ii. of **suffering** and **sacrifice**.

**1 Peter 1:3–7**

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”*

- a. Grief and Trials force us to grow
- b. A baby crying when its hungry
- c. Makes the baby stronger by exercising its lungs and breathing
- d. Weight lifting and running is good exercise for the body
  - a. Painful but constructive for the body

**James 1:12**

*“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.*

**ILLUSTRATION**

The French film *Les Choristes* (“The Choir”) tells the story of a broken-down boys’ boarding school in post-war France. It’s a place where troubled boys are sent when no one else wants them — where discipline is harsh, the atmosphere is cold, and hope seems in short supply.

Then one day, a new teacher arrives — Clément Mathieu. He’s not much to look at. He’s quiet. Unimpressive. But he sees something that no one else sees: potential. Instead of punishing the boys with more rules, he listens. Instead of shouting, he sings. He starts a choir — something no one asked for, and no one believed was possible. The boys push back. Some mock him. Some are too wounded to trust. But slowly, something changes.

As they sing, their posture lifts. Their eyes brighten. Their behavior improves. They begin to believe they’re capable of something beautiful. And it all started with one man who saw them not for what they were — but for who they could become.

- a. **THAT’S THE HEART OF GOD.**
- b. In a world that labels and limits,
  - 1) God restores **dignity**.
- c. In a culture that throws people away,
  - 1) He calls us **valuable**.
- d. When others see brokenness,
  - 1) God sees **possibility**.
- e. He **doesn’t** wait until **we clean ourselves up**

- 1) He begins singing over us
- 2) even while we're still stuck
- 3) in our mess.

**2 Corinthians 4:16–18**

*“Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”*

5. **Fifthly**, we need to be assured that ultimately, **GOD’S LOVE LEADS US HOME**.

- God’s love brings those who embrace it into God’s glory and eternal life.
  - a. God’s love **draws** us

**Jeremiah 31:3**

*“The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying:  
“I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
I have drawn you with loving-kindness.”*

- b. His kindness **leads** us back

**Romans 2:4**

*“Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness leads you toward repentance?”*

- c. He **guides** us like a shepherd

**Psalms 23:1–3**

*“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.  
He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.”*

**Isaiah 40:10–11**

*“See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him.  
See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.  
He tends his flock like a shepherd:  
He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart;  
he gently leads those that have young.”*

- d. And through Christ, He **brings us** home to be with Him

**John 14:2–3**

*“In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”*

- 1) **If we stay faithful** to God
  - 2) Jesus himself will return and escort us
    - a. through that **doorway** of GRACE
    - b. And bring us to **our new home**
  - 3) What an **amazing thought** that is
    - a. Going hand-in-hand with our Lord and Savior
    - b. I’m going to want a piggy-back ride
  - 4) The transportation method really **doesn’t** matter
  - 5) What matters is that Jesus will bring us **to meet** our Heavenly Father
- e. PAUL WRITES AS HE IS ABOUT TO DEPART THIS WORLD:

### **2 Timothy 4:7–8**

*“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”*

## **6. IN CONCLUSION:**

### **Romans 8:31–39**

*“What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:*

*“For your sake we face death all day long;*

*we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”*

*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither 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.”*

- Next Week we will continue with this study
- There is so much to look at on this subject

WHAT’S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

**EVERYTHING!!!!**