God Is Love

➤ **What Does This Mean?**

- God gives of Himself for the **benefit** and ultimate **good** of others.
- God’s love is at the **center** of His other attributes. Out of God’s love comes His kindness, grace, etc.

➤ **Where Do We See This in Scripture?**

- “God is **love**” (I John 4:16) and He is described as “the God of love” (II Cor. 13:11).
- “Anyone who does not love does not **know** God, because God is love” (I John 4:8).
- “For God so **loved** the world, that he **gave** his only Son...” (John 3:16).
- “God shows His **love** for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8; note I John 4:9-10).

- God’s love for us will never end because His love is based on His unchanging **nature**. This endless love was shown to Israel in the Old Testament (Jer. 31:3), just as it is shown to **us** today (Eph. 5:25).

➤ **What Does This Mean for Me?**

⇒ Understanding God’s love for us should ignite a **desire** in us to show love in return. “We love because He first loved us” (I John 4:19; note I John 5:3).
⇒ Genuine love for God will be shown through a **sacrificial** love for others (John 13:35; I John 4:21).
⇒ Just as God loved us, our love for others must be based on an intentional **choice** to do so (not an emotional response), even in moments when it may seem difficult (I Cor. 13).
⇒ An understanding of God’s love for us will relieve us of any **fears** we may struggle with (I John 4:18).

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Christian Doctrine
God (Part 15)
Attributes: What Is He Like?

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