

Freaked out

Insecure

Neurotic

Emotional

Or

Redeemed

Empowered

Accepted

Loved

What do you love?

Chocolate

Coffee

Steelers

Vikings

Snow days

Favorite sweater/jeans/pajamas

God's love is the starting point for everyone. It is not about growth – some spiritual mountain to climb where we can finally start loving other people – it is actually just the opposite. God loves us first. We receive His love and that's where we all start. In the beginning, God loved us and John says that because He loved us first, we can love each other.

1 John 4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Love is the focus of all God's laws.

When Jesus is asked about which is the greatest commandment in

Mark 12:29-31

The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

What does it really mean to love?

Most churches would say they want to be community focused. To really love their community to Christ. What does that look like?

1 Corinthians 13:1-3(Mes) If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

² If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.

³ If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.


We throw that word *Love* around a lot

Let's take a little lesson in linguistic studies.

Egyptian Hieroglyphics as a child.

The modern Hebrew alphabet is derived from the ancient Phoenician alphabet. In Ancient Hebrew every letter is both a sound and a picture or story.


The first letter of the Hebrew alphabet is “alef”.

It looks like this. 

However, “alef” in ancient Hebrew looked like 

Literal meaning = **ox, bull**


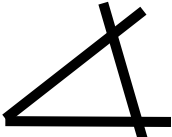
Symbolic meaning = **Strong, leader, first**

The second letter of the Hebrew alphabet is “beth”. It looks like this. 

In ancient Hebrew looked like 

Literal meaning = **tent, dwelling, place where life is nurtured**

Symbolic meaning = **household, in, into**



  = Root word “**av**”
(beth) (alep)

“av” is the root word which forms the word “abba” which is translated in English as “**father**”

So the literal meaning of “father” is: ***the strong one in whom we dwell or run to***


Whenever you split a root word in Hebrew it means to go to its’ **heart**. Whatever you add to the center you are doing to the heart of

the root.

The Hebrew letter “hē”  in ancient Hebrew looked like 

Literal meaning = **window, fence**

Symbolic meaning = **to reveal**

 = *ahav* in Hebrew.

(beth) (hē) (alef)

Translated into Greek that word is *agape*.

Translated into English that word is *love*.

So the literal meaning of the word *love* is to **“*reveal the heart of the father*”**

The passage I read earlier sounds a bit different now...

1 Corinthians 13:1-3(Mes) If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't **reveal the Father's heart**, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

² If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, “Jump,” and it jumps, but I don't **reveal His heart**, I'm nothing.

³ If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't **reveal the Father's heart**, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without **the revelation of the Father's heart**.

1 John 4:7-11 (NLT)

⁷ Dear friends, let us continue to **reveal the heart of the Father** to one another, for **the revelation of the Father's heart** comes from God. Anyone who **reveals the heart of the Father** is born of God and knows God. ⁸ But anyone who does not **reveal the Father's heart** does not know God—for God is **the very revelation of His own heart**.

⁹ God showed how much he **revealed His heart to** us by sending his only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰ This is real **revelation of Father's heart**. It is not that we **revealed God's heart to** God, but that he **revealed His heart to** us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, since God **revealed His heart to** us that much, we surely ought to **reveal the Father's heart to** each other.

Now, keep all of that on file for a bit. We WILL come back to it.

John 10:10 (NIV)

The thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.

John 14:25-27 (NIV)

²⁵ I am telling you these things now while I am still with you.

²⁶ But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

27 “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.

REAL Explanation.

Redeemed:

גאל
gâ'al
gaw-al'

A primitive root, to *redeem* (according to the Oriental law of kinship), that is, to *be the next of kin* (and as such to *buy back* a relative’s property, *marry* his widow, etc.):— X in any wise, X at all, avenger, deliver, (do, perform the part of near, next) kinsfolk (-man), purchase, ransom, redeem (-er), revenger.

Acts 20:28 (NIV) Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

1 Cor. 6:19-20 (NIV) Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

Galatians 3:13 (NIV) Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."

Galatians 4:4-5 (NIV) But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, ⁵to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

Ephes. 1:7 (NIV) In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

Col. 1:14 (NIV) ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

1 Tim. 2:5-6 (NIV) For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time.

Titus 2:14 (NIV) who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Hebrews 9:12 (NIV) He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

1 Peter 1:18-19 (NIV) For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Rev. 5:9 (NIV) And they sang a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals,

because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Empowered:

δύναμις

dunamis

doo'-nam-is

From [G1410](#) ; *force* (literally or figuratively); specifically miraculous *power* (usually by implication a *miracle* itself):—ability, abundance, meaning, might (-ily, -y, -y deed), (worker of) miracle (-s), power, strength, violence, mighty (wonderful) work.

2 Chron. 14:11 (NIV) Then Asa called to the Lord his God and said, "Lord, there is no one like you to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us, O Lord our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this vast army. O Lord, you are our God; do not let man prevail against you."

2 Chron. 14:11

14:11 If you are facing battles you feel you can't possibly win, don't give up. In the face of vast hordes of enemy soldiers, Asa prayed for God's help, recognizing his powerlessness against such a mighty army. The secret of victory is first to admit the futility of unaided human effort and then to trust God to save. His power works best through those who recognize their limitations (2 Cor. 12:9). It is those who think they can do it all on their own who are in the greatest danger.

John 1:12

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he **gave the right** to become children of God—

2 Cor. 12:9 (NIV) But he said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore I will

boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Isaiah 40:29-31 (NIV) He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Luke 24:49 (NIV) I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

John 7:38-39 (NIV) Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." ³⁹By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Acts 1:8 (NIV) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 6:8 (NIV) Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people.

Romans 1:16 (NLT) ¹⁶For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—Jews first and also Gentiles.

1 Cor. 4:19-20 (NIV) But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only how these arrogant

people are talking, but what power they have. ²⁰For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

Ephes. 1:18-20 (NIV) I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

1 Thes. 1:5 (NIV) because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.

2 Tim. 1:7 (NIV) For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

Acceptance:

προσλαμβάνω
proslambanō

Thayer Definition:

- 1) to take to, take in addition, to take to one's self
 - 1a) to take as one's companion
 - 1b) to take by the hand in order to lead aside
 - 1c) to take or receive into one's home, with the collateral idea of kindness
 - 1d) to receive, i.e. grant one access to one's heart
 - 1d1) to take into friendship and intercourse
 - 1e) to take to one's self, to take: i.e. food

Part of Speech: verb

Romans 5:16 (NLT) ¹²When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to

everyone, for everyone sinned. ¹³Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. And though there was no law to break, since it had not yet been given, ¹⁴they all died anyway—even though they did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. What a contrast between Adam and Christ, who was yet to come! ¹⁵And what a difference between our sin and God’s generous gift of forgiveness. For this one man, Adam, brought death to many through his sin. But this other man, Jesus Christ, brought forgiveness to many through God’s bountiful gift. ¹⁶And the result of God’s gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man’s sin. For Adam’s sin led to condemnation, but we have the free gift of being **accepted** by God, even though we are guilty of many sins.

Romans 15:7 (NLT) ⁷So accept each other just as Christ has **accepted** you; then God will be glorified. ⁸Remember that Christ came as a servant to the Jews to show that God is true to the promises he made to their ancestors. ⁹And he came so the Gentiles might also give glory to God for his mercies to them.

Romans 15:7 (NIV)

Accept one another, then, just as Christ **accepted** you, in order to bring praise to God.

Hebrews 6:16-19 (NLT) When people take an oath, they call on someone greater than themselves to hold them to it. And without any question that oath is binding. ¹⁷God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind. ¹⁸So God has given us both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can take new courage, for we can hold on to his promise with confidence.

¹⁹This confidence is like a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain of heaven into God's inner sanctuary.

6:18-19 These two unchangeable things are God's nature and his promise. God embodies all truth; therefore, he cannot lie. Because God is truth, you can be secure in his promises; you don't need to wonder if he will change his plans. Our hope is secure and immovable, anchored in God, just as a ship anchor holds firmly to the seabed. To the true seeker who comes to God in belief, God gives an unconditional promise of acceptance. When you ask God with openness, honesty, and sincerity to save you from your sins, *he will do it*. This truth should give you encouragement, assurance, and confidence.

Loved:

אהב

'âhab 'âhêb

aw-hab', aw-habe'

A primitive root; to *have affection* for (sexually or otherwise):—(be-) love (-d, -ly, -r), like, friend.

ἀγαπάω

agapaō

Thayer Definition:

1) of persons

1a) to welcome, to entertain, to be fond of, to love dearly

2) of things

2a) to be well pleased, to be contented at or with a thing

Part of Speech: verb

agapē

ag-ah'-pay

From [G25](#) ; *love*, that is, *affection* or *benevolence*; specifically (plural) a *love feast*:—(feast of) charity ([*-ably*]), dear, love.

Exodus 20:6 (NLT) But I lavish my love on those who love me and obey my commands, even for a thousand generations.

John 3:16 (NLT) "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 14:21 (NLT) Those who obey my commandments are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them, and I will love them. And I will reveal myself to each one of them."

John 14:23 (NLT) Jesus replied, "All those who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and live with them.

John 16:27 (NLT) for the Father himself loves you dearly because you love me and believe that I came from God.

Romans 5:8 (NLT) But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Ephes. 2:4-5 (NLT) But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so very much, ⁵ that even while we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's special favor that you have been saved!)

2 Thes. 2:16 (NLT) May our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father, who loved us and in his special favor gave us everlasting comfort and good hope,

Titus 3:4-5 (NLT) But then God our Savior showed us his kindness and love. ⁵ He saved us, not because of the good things

we did, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins and gave us a new life through the Holy Spirit.

1 John 4:15-16 (NLT) All who proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. ¹⁶We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in him. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

So, what does love look like?

♥ Real love is an action, not a feeling. It produces selfless, sacrificial giving.

Dan in Real Life. Marty Barasco: “Love is not a feeling Mr. Burns. It's an ability.”

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. **1 John 3:16**

And **John 15:13** Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

♥ Real love accepts us despite what it knows about us.

♥ Real love is not talked about, it is demonstrated.

♥ Real love cannot be taken away.

♥ Real love can be measured by how we treat others.

Matthew 10:42 And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."

♥ **Loving others is not an option.**

John 13:34-35 (NLT) with “Ahav”

34 So now I am giving you a new commandment: **Reveal the heart of the Father to** each other. Just as I have **revealed His heart to** you, you should **revealed His heart to** each other. **35** Your **revelation of the Father’s heart** for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

1 John 4:19 (NIV) We love because he first loved us.