

Driving thought: “Love is the active, working principle in all true faith. It is its very soul, without which it is dead.” – Jonathan Edwards

What is God’s glory?

- “‘Glory’ generally represents...the root idea of ‘heaviness’ and so of ‘weight’ or ‘worthiness’. It is used of men to describe their wealth, splendor or reputation” (*The New Bible Dictionary*).
- “The most important Hebrew word for glory, *kabod*, means ‘weight’ or ‘importance.’ Thus, to have glory is to be weighty or important to oneself or others” (*Harper’s Bible Dictionary*).

What is Love (Cultural versions of love)?

- An _____: love is some nebulous force.
- An enemy of _____: think Santa Clause.
- A mere _____: an elated emotional high.
- A conditional _____: I will love you “if” or “so long as.”

Greek words for love:

Eros: sexual love.

Phileo: warm, non-sexual affection among friends.

Storge: love between family members.

Agape: self-sacrificial love that moves one to action. The word used for God’s love for us.

The Superiority of God’s love:

- It gives us an ultimate _____ to love one another: because it reflects God’s love – 4:7
- Being born again is a _____ for being able to truly love because there is no genuine source of true love outside God – 4:8
- God’s love was revealed so that we might know how to _____ – 4:9
- God’s love takes the _____ – 4:10

What is *propitiation*? The appeasement necessitated by sin.

How should God’s love change the way we live?

- We should believe that it is possible for God’s love to include us and receive his love through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ – 4:11-12
- We should allow God’s love to flow through us to others – 4:11-12

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What is Love (Cultural versions of love)?

- An **abstraction**: love is some nebulous force.
- An enemy of **justice**: think Santa Clause.
- A mere **feeling**: an elated emotional high.
- A conditional **contract**: I will love you “if” or “so long as.”

Greek words for love:

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The Superiority of God’s love:

- It gives us an ultimate **reason** to love one another: because it reflects God’s love – 4:7
- Being born again is a **prerequisite** for being able to truly love because there is no genuine source of true love outside God – 4:8
- God’s love was revealed so that we might know how to **live** – 4:9
- God’s love takes the **initiative** – 4:10

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