

## Advent Love John 15:9-17

9 "As the Father has **loved** me, so have I **loved** you. Now remain in my **love**. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my **love**, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his **love**. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: **Love** each other as I have **loved** you. 13 Greater **love** has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: **Love** each other.

### The Deepest Longing in Our Hearts is to be Loved

Just take some time to think about this phrase.

### Love is a Direct Extension of Who God Is

God put that longing there for a reason.

It is because in it's best form, that love is at the core of his character.

God has many attributes.

He is Holy

He is Almighty - meaning powerful, able to do as he wills

He is Just - in that he is good and will pursue justice.

He is Kind and compassionate.

He is Transcendent yet Present.

But he is all of these things because they are an extension of his Character

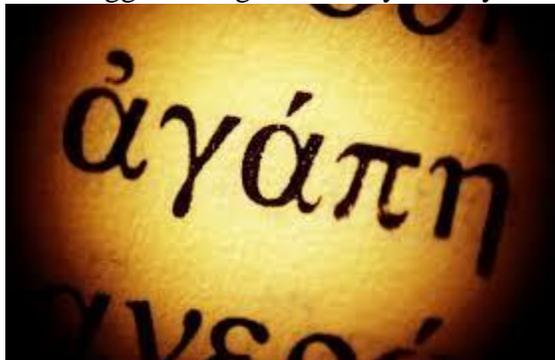
And by His, I mean the Trinity's, Foundational Characteristic.

In Hebrew, it is understood as Heseḏ



"Lovingkindness," "Compassion," "Steadfast Love," "Perfect Love," "Everlasting Love."

We struggle in English to fully convey the meaning of Heseḏ.



The Greek understanding of this term would be the word Agape,  
which occurs 9 times in this passage from John in 9 verses.  
8 of those times are in the first 5 verses of this passage.

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God possesses this love but he shares it with us.  
He calls us not only to receive it but to live in it with others.  
But How?

### **Love is Personal**

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What does it mean to love God?

Receiving his love is the first step.

So many people cannot or do not believe that God loves them.

In fact, that is actually what many deep spiritual thinkers have learned  
is the lifelong lesson of discipleship.

Not only to know intellectually that God loves us.

But to know emotionally, spiritually, viscerally that God loves us.

Derek Provided us with a wonderful personal sharing from his life.

So I want to give you the opportunity to stop and meditate  
on how you have known God's love in your own life.

I am going to give you about 7 minutes to consider this in your heart.

How have you experienced God's love in a real way?

### Personal Meditation Time

### **Love is Communal**

12 *My command is this: **Love** each other as I have **loved** you. 13 Greater **love** has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: **Love** each other.*

Receiving is something we do personally, but it is not to be kept to oneself.

It is to be shared.

Communal, it is about sharing love.

One of those things is to testify - to bear witness to God's love in your life to others.

Internal Expressions in Community:

Share your Meditation with another person (in groups of 2 or 3)

Martin Luther King Jr.

## Agape and Martin Luther King, Jr.

- “*Agape* is not a weak, passive love. It is love in action. *Agape* is love seeking to preserve and create community. It is insistence on community even when one seeks to break it...Love, *agape*, is the only cement that can hold this broken community together. When I am commanded to love, I am commanded to restore community, to resist injustice, and to meet the needs of my brothers.”

Communal love also means action.

Particularly, Truth, Forgiveness and Reconciliation for the sake of love.

**Love is What Our World Longs For**

Salvator Mundi



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7omwQLuGJQ&t=66s&index=17&list=PLDOxf\\_UGPLomcymV8pEOS0Q4wIC1O6Uca](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7omwQLuGJQ&t=66s&index=17&list=PLDOxf_UGPLomcymV8pEOS0Q4wIC1O6Uca)

How does this video make you feel?

What are they Looking At?

Or Who?



*Salvator Mundi* - The Saviour of the World

These emotions are evoked by the very image of Jesus.

It was sold at auction in November of 2017.

It was the most desirable painting that has sold to date in the history of the world.

450 Million USD by an anonymous buyer.

And of all places, it is going to be installed at the Louvre in Abu Dhabi.

So deep the longing for Jesus one would be willing to pay all this money.

The irony is that the real love of God, the true Saviour of the world

Not just his image is free.

But this is the journey we are all on as those who receive love and share love.

This is our pilgrimage, our sharing, our mission, our lives.

*Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

-Jesus, Saviour of the World