

"Greatness:
Just Live It"

"Greatness Through Love" Core 33

"God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

A. Great love...

1. The Greek word to describe God's love is called agape. It is an unconditional, unmerited, unchangeable, and sacrificial love.

"And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39

2. Agape love is an action, not a feeling.

"We know what real love is because Jesus gave up His life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person?" 1 John 3:16-17

3. God is love. It is not just what He does, it is who He is. God = love!

"But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love." 1 John 4:8

4. God loves our neighbors through us.

"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance."

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

5. God loves our family through us.

"For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up His life for her." Ephesians 5:25

6. God loves our enemies through us.

"But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!" Matthew 5:44

B. God's love is beyond comprehension...

"Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God." Ephesians 3:17-19

1. Christ makes His home in our hearts. Christ is living in us.
2. Our roots grow in God's love and keep us strong.
3. The more you grow, the greater you begin to understand His great love.
4. God's love is boundless and infinitely greater than we can possibly understand.
5. God's love is impossible to be contained...it is wider, longer, higher, and deeper than can be imagined.
6. The more we experience His love, the deeper we grow in our ability to love.
7. The more we love, the more complete we become in Christ.

C. The whole gospel in one verse...

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

"For this is how God loved..."

1. God...the all-powerful Creator and Sustainer of the universe. He is personal...He thinks, wills, feels, loves, hates and is moral. He only does what is right!

"Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship Him as God or even give Him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused." Romans 1:21

"For this is how God loved the world..."

2. World...the world included all mankind. All man is lost without God and man in sin are enemies of God.

"But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." Romans 5:8

"For this is how God loved the world; He gave..."

3. Gave...

"The Father loves Me because I sacrifice My life so I may take it back again. No one can take My life from Me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what My Father has commanded." John 10:17-18

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son..."

4. Son...

"In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him..."

5. Believe...

"But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish..."

6. Perish...

"And anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn't obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God's angry judgment." John 3:36

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."

7. Life!

"I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in Me and believes in Me will never ever die." John 11:25-26

D. What will you do with that love that goes beyond comprehension?

"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other."
John 13:34

1. You could start removing any obstacles that hinder God's love flowing through you.
2. You could begin a search to better understand how His love needs to be evidenced in your life.
3. You can start your journey with Christ, allowing Him to control your life and plant the seeds of love in your heart!

"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples."
John 13:35