

# FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

## Love That Defines and Enables May 16, 2023 Suzi Armstrong

It is the love of God that defines us, defines who He made us to be, defines our gifts and talents. The love of God sets our boundaries. The love of God enables us to dream dreams, think big, see the future, and be filled with hope. It is God's incredible love that sustains us through rough times, times of change and transition. God's love surrounds us and fills us. His love is essential to our being. God's love clothes us and covers us – it is a shield of defense and guides us into our future.

God is the giver of love and the receiver of love, and since we are created in His image we were built with a need to give love out and to receive love. We need the love of God operating in us by the power of Holy Spirit. It is God's love that defines and enables us, and all that God has created. Romans 5 tells us that the love of God has been shed abroad or poured out in our hearts.

### **1 John 4.8** NIV

<sup>8</sup> **...God is love.**

- God's identity is love.
- He is filled with love.
- He gives love lavishly.
- He is motivated and sees through the lens of love (John 3.16).
- His amazing love never fails.

### **1 John 4.16** NIV

<sup>16</sup> And so **we know and rely on the love God has for us.**

**God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.**

### **Jeremiah 31.3** NIV

<sup>3</sup> The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: **"I have loved you with an everlasting love, I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.**

### **1 John 4.19** NIV

<sup>19</sup> **We love because He first loved us.**

### **Psalm 136.26** NIV

<sup>26</sup> Give thanks to the God of heaven.

**His love endures forever.**

### **Romans 5.8** NIV

<sup>8</sup> But **God demonstrates His own love for us** in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

### **Deuteronomy 7.9** NIV

<sup>9</sup> Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His **covenant of love** to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commandments.

### Psalm 94.18 NIV

<sup>18</sup> When I said, "My foot is slipping,"  
**your unfailing love, LORD, supported me.**

### Proverbs 3.11-12 NIV

<sup>11</sup> My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline,  
and do not resent his rebuke,  
<sup>12</sup> because **the LORD disciplines those he loves,**  
as a father the son he delights in.

### Zephaniah 3.17 NIV

<sup>17</sup> **The Lord your God is with you,**  
**the Mighty WARRIOR who saves.**  
He will take great delight in you;  
in His love He will no longer rebuke you,  
but will **rejoice over you with singing."**

**The blood of Jesus is love.** What can wash His away my sin – nothing but the love-blood of Jesus.  
What can make me whole again – nothing but the love-blood of Jesus.

- His glory is the manifestation of the brightness of His love.
- His goodness and faithfulness are filled with the realm of God's love.
- Hope connects me to God's love.
- My faith is rooted in God's love.

### Ephesians 2.4-5 NIV

<sup>4</sup> But **because of His great love for us,** God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> **made us alive with Christ** even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

### Romans 8.37-39 NIV

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.  
<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, **nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

### PRAYER AND DECLARATION:

(From Dutch Sheets, Give Him 15)

Father, thank You for pursuing us with Your unconditional love. Thank You for understanding us when we're hurting and, yes, when we're running from You. And thank You for being willing to visit us in our pigpens. Like the father of the prodigal in Scripture who hugged his son while he was still dressed in slop-covered clothes, You embrace us first, then clean us up. Thank You.

You are the source of pleasure and purpose, dreams, and destiny. We determine to pursue You, seeking Your face all the days of our lives.

We know, Father, that there are billions of people whom You love that do not yet realize who You are. We are asking for the greatest of all revivals through which You can reveal Yourself to them. They will taste, and they will see...Do this, please. Pour Holy Spirit life into regions until a flood of people find You. Crush all opposition, remove every obstacle.

We ask in Christ's Name.

Amen.