

April 26, 2024

God is Love

[1 John 4:12-21](#)

¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world.

When I go to visit my family up north, one of my cousins loves to watch the Hallmark Channel. We will spend a whole afternoon watching one movie after another. They sure do make you feel good. Especially the ones in February, right around Valentine's Day—when they really pour on the love and throw in a wedding or two.

As much as we would like to think that Hallmark has the perfect love stories, and they always end in happily ever after, it is all a fantasy. In real life we have disappointments, hurts, heartaches and loss.

Verse 12: "Dear friends...we certainly ought to love each other. No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and his love becomes complete in us!" (*The Message*)

But here is reality: God is LOVE. Pure and Simple...

The scripture tells us if we say we love God then we should show others the same love. God sent his son to teach us how to love, to take away the ugliness in our lives, and "make something beautiful and new out of us." God makes us perfect in his love. Perfect love—what more could we want? It's what we look for in our relationships, from our parents, spouses, what we hope for in our children and grandchildren, but in reality perfect love can only be found in a relationship with God.

The Message (verse 17), reads: "**God is love.** "When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God, and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we are free of worry on Judgment Day—our standing in the world is identical with Christ's."

When we love God, and he lives in us, we too are guaranteed the true happy ending that no Hallmark movie could ever give. So, let us truly love God, by believing in his word, allowing him to take up residence in our hearts, and truly share God's love in service to others.

Prayer: *Come Lord Jesus; dwell with us and make our love perfect in every way as we serve you in the world. Amen.*

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