

KNOWING A LOVING GOD

Perhaps the greatest biblical truth is that God is a loving God who loves us greatly, and desires an intimate, personal relationship with us and it gives Him pleasure! Following are some key biblical principles that speak about God and His love.

Biblical Principles:

- 1) **God is love! Love is one of His dominant attributes, guides Him, and is perfectly blended with all His other attributes** (I John 4:8,16). **Love comes from God** (I John 4:7)
- 2) **God loves us greatly!** (Ephesians 2:4-5). **God's love is immense!** (Ephesians 3:16-19).
- 3) **God loves the entire world** (John 3:16). **He desires an intimate, personal relationship with us and it gives Him pleasure!** (Acts 17:24-27; Ephesians 1:3-5). **Each person has to decide to whether or not believe in and receive God's Son Jesus as personal Savior. That choice determines if we have a personal relationship with God and determines our eternal destiny** (John 1:12-13, 3:16-18, 36, 5:24; I John 5:12).
- 4) **God loves us with an everlasting love that endures forever and never fails!** (Psalms 52:8, 106:1, chapter 136; Jeremiah 31:3)
- 5) **God's love is unconditional** (Romans 5:8), **sacrificial** (John 3:16, 15:13) and **limitless** (Psalms 36:5).
- 6) **God demonstrates His love in many ways including His creation, gifts and blessings** (Psalms 19:1-6; Matthew 7:11; John 1:16; James 1:17). **The number one way He has showed His love is through sending His Son Jesus Christ to pay our sin debt on the cross** (Romans 5:8; I John 4:9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- 7) **We should keep ourselves in God's love** (Jude 20-21).
- 8) **Because God loved us, we should love God and others - which Jesus said is the great commandment (our top priority)** (Matthew 22:34-40; I John 3:16-18, 4:7-21). **We love because God first loved us** (I John 4:19). **Jesus said His followers (Christians) should be known for their love** (John 13:34-35).
- 9) **We should express our love with actions** (I John 3:16-18).
- 10) **For Christians, NOTHING can separate us from God's love!** (Romans 8:35-39).

Case Study:

Criminal on the cross (Luke 23:39-43)