

I. GOD HAS SHOWN EXTRAVAGANT LOVE TO US IN JESUS CHRIST

- A. God is love. Everything of good in this world is a reflection of the loving Creator (Jam. 1:17)
1 John 4:8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
- B. God's love is in Jesus Christ. Love is a choice, it can't be forced. God cannot force anyone to love Him. So God demonstrates His love to us. And gives people the choice to receive His love.
Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*
- C. God's love takes people who are bound in sin and rebellion against Him and gives them true life now and eternal (John 10:10)

II. JESUS CALLS US TO FOLLOW HIM

- A. We are called to follow Jesus (cf. Mark 2:14; 8:34; John 1:43; 10:27).
Matt. 9:9 And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him

John 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.
- B. A disciple is someone who follows and imitates their master/teacher. A disciple of Jesus Christ follows and imitates His love and character.
John 13:34 ..As I have loved you, that you also love one another.
- C. Baptism is an act of obedience to Jesus Christ. He was baptized to fulfill righteousness (Matt 3:14-15). We follow Him into the waters of baptism.
Matt. 28:18-20 "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." ¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.
- D. As we begin to truly understand how much God loves us, we will love Him and live for Him. It's all about love (Mark 12:30; 1 John 4:19).
- E. God's love is powerful.
Rom. 8:38-39 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.