



## **GOD IS LOVE**

The desire and need to be loved is probably the most prominent foundation in life. There are different kinds of love from good to not-so-good. When it comes to God and Jesus, it should be easy to feel loved. Of course, God loves everyone, right? As usual, life is not that simple, not because of God, but because of us. What more can God do to prove his love for us? He sacrificed his own son. Sadly, too often, even that isn't proof enough for many. Hopefully this discussion will help us realize God's loving us isn't dependent on us. Thank God!

**Why would someone think that God doesn't love them?**

**When you hear the phrase “*God is love*,” what is your first reaction—and why do you think that is?**

## **TALK ABOUT IT**

**Read 1 John 4:7-8.**

**According to John, how does God describe the relationship between himself and love?**

**How is that different from how we often think about love?**

Russ talked about love being transactional: “*God loves me as long as I’m good.*”

**Where have you seen or felt that belief show up in your own faith?**

**Read 1 John 4:9-10.**

**Why do we so easily confuse behavior with identity, especially in our relationship with God?**

## **APPLY IT**

Russ compared God to a parent teaching a child to drive.

**How does that image shape (or challenge) the way you picture God's love for you?**

If you truly believed God's love for you is unchanging, even on your worst days, what might change in your faith or daily life this week?

Read Romans 8:37-39.

How does this powerful expression of the power of God's love refute the false narrative of transactional love so many buy into?

**PRAY TOGETHER**