

A close-up photograph of a baby's hand resting on an adult's palm. The baby's hand is small and delicate, with its fingers slightly spread. The adult's palm is visible beneath it, showing the texture of the skin. The background is dark and out of focus.

Getting
to Know
Good
the
Father

**God's
Incredible
Love for us**



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Title
Getting to Know God and Jesus

Speaker
Jim Styles

Location
Seattle

Year
2022

Description
4 classes & an exhortation on getting to know God and Jesus better so we can develop a better relationship and treat others like they do

Attachments

Ext

Size

Attachment 1
1 God's Incredible Love for Us - Seattle 2022

pdf

4.23 MB

Attachment 2
2 God's Election of His Family - Seattle 2022

pdf

1.60 MB

Attachment 3
3 God's Punishment vs Discipline - Seattle 2022

pdf

2.25 MB

Attachment 4
4 God's Amazing Flexibility - Seattle 2022

pdf

2.02 MB

Why this matters:

**we
BECOME
what we
WORSHIP**

**So let the
Bible be our
source for
knowing
God**



**What is your
understanding
of God?**

**What kind of
relationship do
you have with
God & Jesus?**



Some think:

God is angry with His children and
wants to punish them for their sins



*Others
believe in :*

GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL + LOVE

They don't realize: “But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.” (Jude 5)

**Evangelical
Christianity took an
extreme position:**



They forgot: "Jacob I have Loved, Esau I have hated"



We know:

God loves His children, even when they sin, and works with them to repent and be forgiven, *to a point.*

God is the basis for understanding Love

Exodus 34:6-7 ESV

The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, **a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty,**

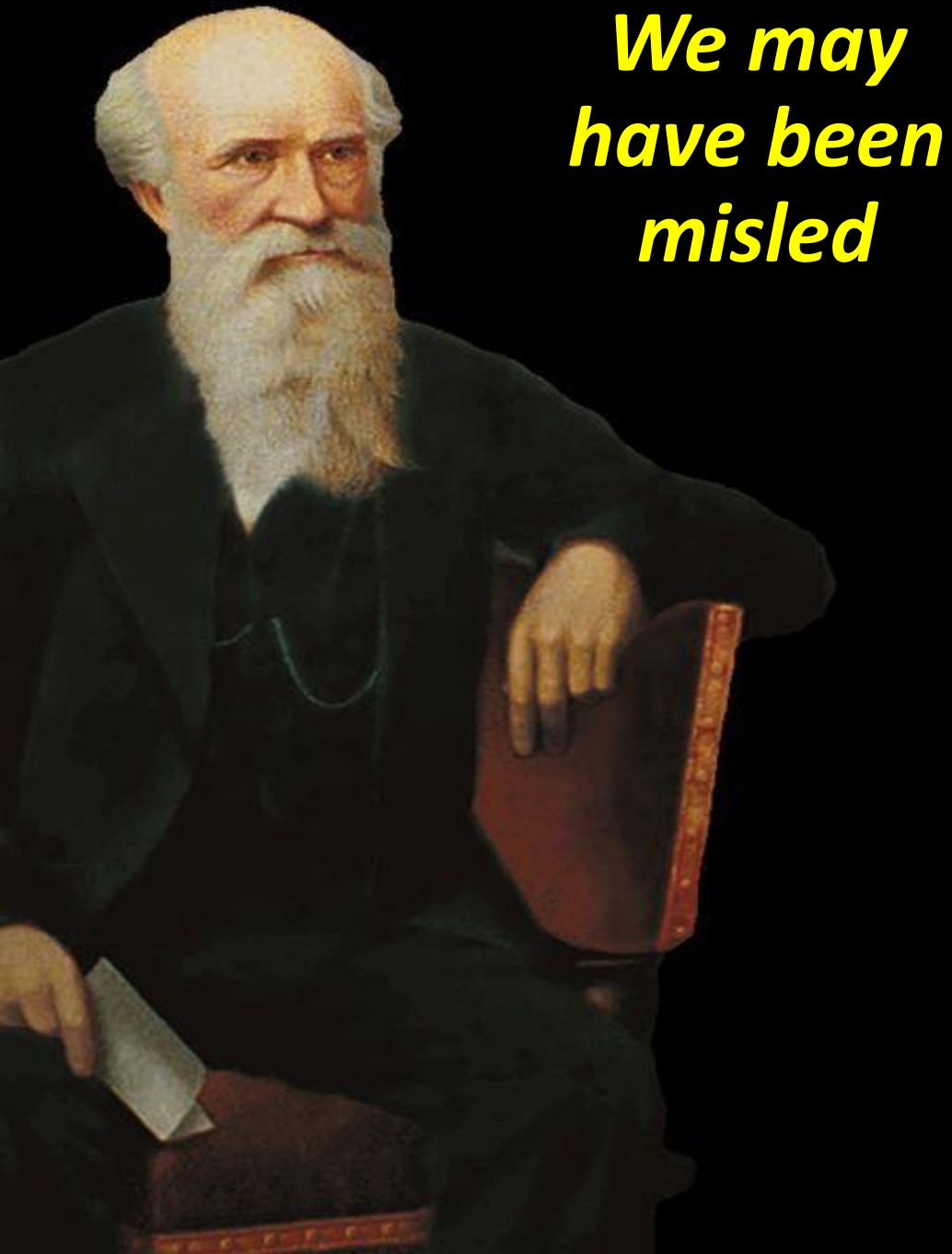
Our God is motivated by His Love for His family

**When God forgives our sins He expects
this will lead to our repentance**

Romans 2:1-5 ESV

Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because **you, the judge, practice the very same things.** 2 We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who do such things. 3 Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? 4 **Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience,** not knowing that **God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?** 5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

There is a limit to God's kindness & patience!



*We may
have been
misled*

"Men were not ushered into being for the purpose of being saved or lost! God manifestation not human salvation was the great purpose of the Eternal Spirit."



Most people don't realize the context of this statement. Someone had written to John Thomas to ask him about **universal salvation**, so he explained that God never had intended to save everyone - only those who were born of the spirit would become part of His family



*"Men were not ushered into being for the purpose of being saved or lost! **God manifestation not human salvation was the great purpose of the Eternal Spirit.***

The salvation of a multitude is incidental to the manifestation, but was not the end proposed. The Eternal Spirit intended to enthrone Himself on the earth, and in so doing, to develop a Divine family from among men, every one of whom shall be Spirit, because born of the Spirit, and that this family shall be large enough to fill the earth, when perfected, to the entire exclusion of flesh and blood (1 Cor. 15:28)".

[Dr. Thomas, Herald of the Kingdom for 1858, pp. 84–85]

**Our God
loves
us...**

**like a father
loves his
children**



God's love for His children has always caused Him to act

Deuteronomy 7:6-8

6 "For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; **the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.** 7 The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; 8 **but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you** from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

**God continues to act for His children today
because He loves them & keeps His promises**

God expects us to respond to His love

Deuteronomy 10:12-20 ESV

12 "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good? ... 15 Yet the Lord set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day. 16 Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. 17 For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. 18 He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. 19 Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

He loves the sojourner, so we must too!

God's actions for us are based on His love for us

Deuteronomy 23:3-5

3 "An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the Lord; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the Lord forever, 4 because they did not meet you with bread and water on the road when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you. 5 **Nevertheless the Lord your God would not listen to Balaam, but the Lord your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the Lord your God loves you.**

God continues to protect us today because He loves us

Just as a father
has compassion
on his children,
so the LORD has
compassion on

those who

fear Him.

Psalms 103:13



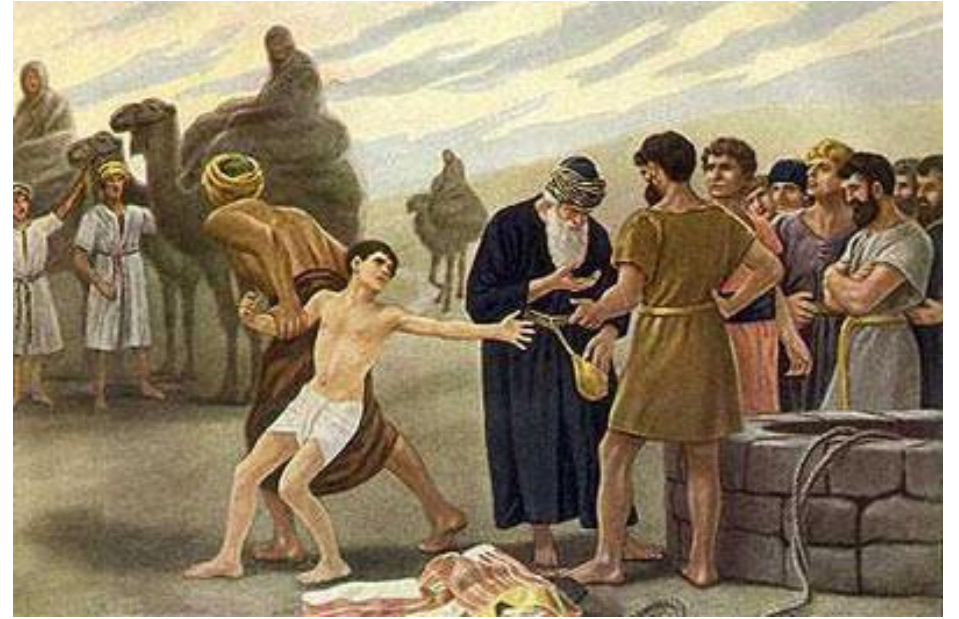
A photograph of a family of three walking away from the camera in a lush green field. The mother, on the left, has blonde hair and is wearing a pink textured top and white pants. The father, on the right, has short brown hair and is wearing a light blue button-down shirt and dark jeans. A young boy in a light blue shirt and khaki shorts is walking between them, holding both parents' hands. The background is a dense line of green trees.

**God wants a
relationship
with you...**

**based on
Love**

Love has more power to change you than fear

When Joseph's brothers sold him they made up a story about Joseph being killed by a wild animal because they feared telling Jacob the truth



When Judah pleaded with Joseph to take Benjamin's place, it was because Judah loved Jacob and could not bear to see Jacob deal with the loss of another son

God chastens us like our parents on earth

Proverbs 3:11-12

11 My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor detest His correction; 12 For whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.

God disciplines us because He loves us and wants to change us into His children so can join His family forever

A silhouette of an adult male figure on the left, leaning forward and pointing his right index finger towards a smaller child on the right. The child is standing and looking up at the adult. The background is a dramatic sky with soft, wispy clouds in shades of blue, purple, and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is contemplative and focused on the theme of discipline.

The purpose of
God's discipline
is not to punish
us, but to train
us to become
immortal
children of God

Jesus doesn't need to plead with God on our behalf

John 16:26-27

26 In that day you will ask in My name,
and **I do not say to you that I shall pray
the Father for you; 27 for the Father
Himself loves you,** because you have
loved Me, and have believed that I came
forth from God.

God loves us & He wants to help us



God has always reached out and tried to help His children and save them by faith

We are God's children now because He loves us

1 John 3:1-3

Behold **what manner of love the Father** has bestowed on us, that we should be called **children of God!** *“And so we are!” [ESV, NASB]* Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, **now we are children of God**; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And **everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

God's children work on purifying themselves, like Jesus



Appreciate it!

BEHOLD WHAT MANNER OF LOVE
THE FATHER
HAS BESTOWED ON US,
THAT WE SHOULD BE CALLED
CHILDREN OF GOD!

Now! What a privilege!

1 JOHN 3:1A

God saved us by Grace because He loves us

Ephesians 2:3-8 ESV

3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 **But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved—** 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

God's love motivated Him to do everything to save us

God didn't wait for us to deserve it

Romans 5:6-11

6 For when we were still **without strength**, in due time [*at just the right time (NIV)*] Christ died for the **ungodly**. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 **But God demonstrates His own love toward us**, in that while we were still **sinners**, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been **justified by His blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were **enemies** we were reconciled to God **through the death of His Son**, much more, having been reconciled, **we shall be saved by His life**. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom **we have now received the reconciliation**.

**This should make us respond to God's love
& gives us a model for how we treat others**

Feel the depth of God's Love

Rom 5:6-8

- While we were **without strength**
- **In due time** [when both Jews & Gentiles were ungodly & hopeless] (Rom 1-2)
- Christ died for the **ungodly**
- Humans might *dare* to die for a good person – God calculated for 4,000 years His son would die!
- **God's love caused him to design a plan** He considered for 1000s of years that involved His Son dying for **sinners**!
- When we were **enemies** we were reconciled (10)



**God's love was real, calculated, & cost Him.
And all for humans who didn't deserve it!**

God didn't wait because He was motivated by Love

Ephesians 1:3-7 ESV

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 **he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ,** according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. *[note: modern versions start v. 5 with "in love"]*

God has adopted us into His family because He loves us

We must teach and show our children about God's love so they will grow up to love God



God loved Jesus because Jesus laid down his life

John 10:17-18

17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.

18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

God loves all those who keep His commandments

Real Love: You feel it, see it, and show it!



Fake love is just words

God loves those who love Jesus

John 14:21, 23

21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, **it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him** and manifest Myself to him." John 14:23-24

23 Jesus answered and said to him, **"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him,** and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

Love is a two way relationship. If we want God's love, we must love Him and Jesus



— For this is the —
l o v e o f G o d ,

that we keep His commandments.

**A n d H i s c o m m a n d m e n t s
a r e n o t b u r d e n s o m e .**

— 1 John 5:3 —

Jesus taught us about God's love



Now we
must
practice
showing
God's love

Love explained: God took the initiative & loved us first, now we must love one another

1 John 4:7-11

7 Beloved, **let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.**
8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 **In this the love of God was manifested** toward us, that **God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.** 10 **In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us (Rom 5) and sent His Son to be the propitiation [place of mercy] for our sins.** 11 Beloved, **if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.** *[in the same way God loved us!]*

God's children love one another, the way God has loved us - His Eternal way of Life

God proved His love
for us when he sent
Jesus to be crucified
so we would know
how to live
to become children
of God



"Leaving us
an example
that we
should follow
in his steps"

The test for our claim to Know Christ & be In Him

1 John 2:3-6

3 Now by this **we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.** 4 **He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.** 5 **But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him.** By this we know that we are in Him. 6 **He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.**

Simple Test: Are we walking the pathway of Eternal Life?

When God's love is perfected in us we have confidence and no longer fear the judgment

1 John 4:17-21 (ESV)

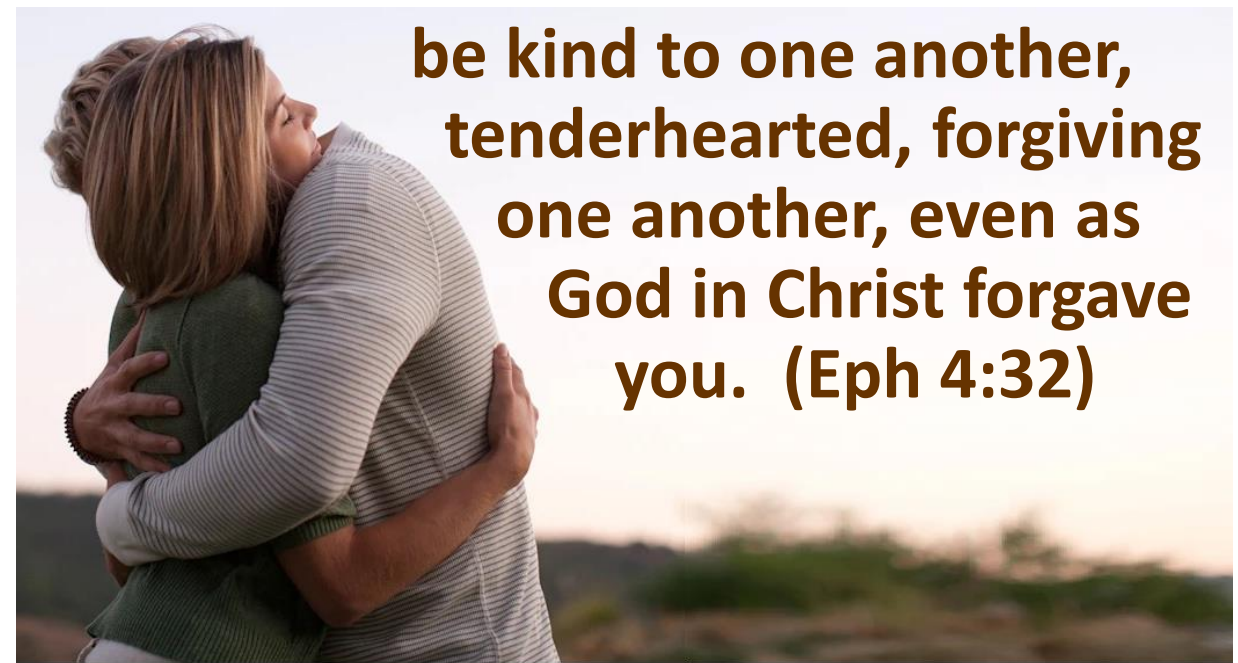
17 By this is love perfected with us, **so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment**, because as he is so also are we in this world. 18 **There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.** 19 We love because he first loved us.

20 **If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.** 21 And **this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.**

Loving God & His family will cast out fear of judgment.

This is based on a relationship with God over time!

We must show love to each other, the way God shows His love to us



- **God loved Paul** even though he had persecuted and killed God's children.
- **God continued to love David** after he committed adultery & murder long after his conversion

We must learn to forgive & love like God

Be careful of a humanistic view of God's love

God Loves



Everyone Equally!



Our expression of LOVE must be based on God's

1 Corinthians 11:4-8 NIV

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 **Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.** 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails.

We must build our understanding of Love on God's love for us

God doesn't love everyone!

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

9 Do you not know that **the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived.** Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners **will inherit the kingdom of God.** 11 **And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

God loves those who conform their lives to His eternal life

How can we practice loving one another?

- **Must spend time together**, pray together, invite others into your home, go places together
- **Don't judge each other** – try to help and support
- **Forgive one another** – like God has forgiven us (*like Joseph with his brothers*)
- **Seek to understand the needs of others** and then try to provide for their needs – emotional, financial, ecclesial, family
- **Listen patiently** to what they want to tell us
- **After tough, conflict conversations, focus on prayer** and ask God for help in showing His love
- **Show loving care** to the families of others



This is a major part of practicing righteousness

Demonstrating God's love to the needy



If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Jam 2:15-16

A photograph of five young school children, three boys and two girls, standing outdoors in a rural setting. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The children are wearing school uniforms: blue and white checkered short-sleeved shirts and blue trousers or skirts. They are standing close together, with their arms around each other's shoulders. In the background, other children and a building with a mural are visible, though slightly out of focus.

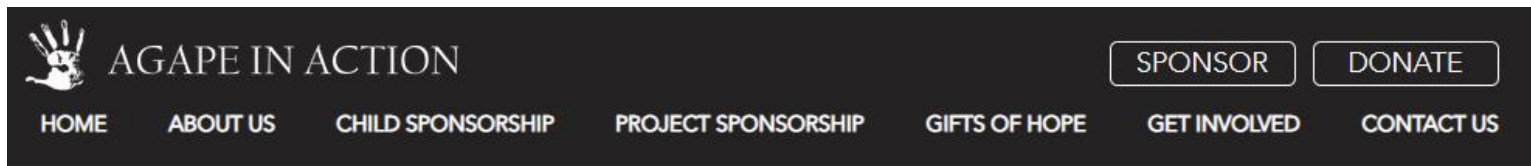
Targeting
Extreme Poverty



AGAPE IN ACTION



**Actions of Love
say a lot more
and a lot louder
than just words!**



Love one another
includes our own
families too!



We must understand & know the love of Christ

Ephesians 3:16-21 NIV

16 I pray that out of his glorious riches **he may strengthen you with power** through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 **so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith**. And I pray that you, **being rooted and established in love**, 18 may be able, together with all the saints, **to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ**, 19 and to know this love *[by our relationship we develop with Jesus]* that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, **according to his power that is at work within us**, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Knowing the love of Christ surpasses knowledge

The effect of having a loving relationship with God

- **We can trust God always**, no matter what happens
- **In everything** He works for good
- **We can have confidence** in God's ability to save us
- **He expects us to treat others** by showing His love to them
- **We have confidence** that no matter what discipline God brings on us, it is for our good training and will yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness



God is in control & will not let us down!

Lessons from Today

- God loves us like a father does his children. He is hoping we will respond to His love & show it to others.
- God defines love – it's not about we think love should be shown in life.
- We don't deserve God's love & never will, so we must be like Him and show His love to others even when they might not deserve it.
- God is using the events of this life to train us to understand His eternal life & hopes we will grow in faith over time.
- God views the mistakes and sins of our past as stepping stones to develop us into His children.