

God's Love Language

John 15:13–14 (NKJV)

¹³Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

¹⁴You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

- “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends” – *The primary love language of Heaven is sacrifice.*
- “You are My friends if you do whatever I command you” – *The second love language of Heaven is closely linked to the first—obedience.*
- *Obedience is not only closely linked to sacrifice, but is really an extension of sacrifice, as we surrender our will to do God's will.*

John 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son” - *God expressed and demonstrated His love for us through sacrifice.*
- *God the Father made the sacrifice of giving us His Son, and it was Jesus' choice to live a life and die a death of sacrifice.*
- *The depth of God's love is clearly seen through what it cost Jesus to redeem us.*
- *It is not the value of a gift that expresses the giver's love, but what it cost the giver for us to receive the gift.*
- *A basic law of economics—something is only worth what someone else is willing to pay for it.*
- “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son” - *God paid the ultimate price, Jesus became the sinner offering, so that we could be saved!*

Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- *The Greek word for “demonstrates” means “to make or cause something to be known by action.”*

- *Therefore, we can say that God caused His love for us to be made known to us by sacrificing Himself on the cross and dying for us, even when we were still acting as His enemies.*
- *Jesus Christ's sacrifice is something that benefits us in innumerable ways. One of those benefits is that it is a powerful reminder of how wonderfully profound God's love is.*
- *Jesus' suffering and death for us on the cross makes God's love for us incredibly tangible on a very personal and intimate level.*
- *Jesus not only bore the sins of mankind collectively but He suffered for each of us individually.*
- *When Jesus hung on the cross it was each of our personal sins that placed Him there.*
- *For us to appreciate what Jesus did for us we must see Jesus' suffer as something He did for us personally.*
- *Sometimes Christians have a difficult time experiencing God's love, but the problem lays in our expectation of what it means to experience God's love.*
- *Some claim that they weren't loved by their earthly parents and therefore they are not able to receive God's love.*
- *Some claim they feel unworthy and unlovable.*
- *Others say they don't even know what love is or what love looks like.*
- *However, God has provided a way for us to be able to understand and experience the life changing power of His love in our lives daily.*
- *The key for us to experience God's love is by understanding the love language of Heaven— sacrifice.*

1 John 4:9 (NKJV)

⁹In 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.

- *The proof of God's love for us is not found in feelings, experiences, or circumstances, but in the truth that God sent His only begotten Son into the world for us!*

- *As we daily dwell upon that truth our hearts will be established by faith that God truly does love us.*

1 John 4:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹We love Him because He first loved us.

- *The first step to experience God's love is to truly believe that God loves us.*
- *God's love for us was not initiated because of our love or actions, but simply because He loves us!*
- *"We love Him because He first loved us" - Our love for God is a direct result of God loving us.*
- *Therefore, the way we grow in our love for God is by being confident in God's love for us.*
- *The way God confirms His love to us is through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ.*
- *Some Christians who struggle with believing God loves them, are looking in the wrong places, or in the wrong ways to confirm His love for them.*
- *1. Some see God's love as something we must earn through good works.*
- *Christianity is perhaps the only religion whose foundational truth is "done" and not "do."*

Titus 3:5 (NKJV)

⁵not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

- *"not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy" – Some doubt God's love for them, because they are overwhelmed by the immensity of their sins and failures.*
- *They view God's love for them as something they must earn through "being good," but in reality God extends His mercy to us because God is love. He loves us simply because He created us.*
- *2. Some are unsure of God's love and look to God's blessings to confirm that He loves them.*

1 Peter 1:6 (NKJV)

⁶In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

- “In this you greatly rejoice, though...you have been grieved by various trials” – *Our joy and confidence in God’s love should not be dependent upon the circumstance we face, but based solely on knowing He loves us.*
- *Our feelings can lie to us, circumstances can be misinterpreted to lead us to think that God has forsaken us, and doubtful thoughts can try to confuse us. If our faith is in God and His love for us, then nothing can shake us.*
- *If we do not have confidence in God’s love, then any time things aren’t going well we will doubt His love.*
- *3. Some look to an emotional experience to confirm that God loves them.*

1 John 4:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

- “And we have known and believed the love that God has for us.” – *It is faith that enables us to have unshakeable confidence in God’s love for us.*
- *Those special encounters when we experience or feel God’s love in a tangible way are wonderful, but the foundation is to be our unshakeable faith that God is love.*
- *Those who are always seeking an “experience” are robbing themselves of the delight of walking in faith regardless of feelings or experiences.*
- “The righteous shall live by faith” *This is also how we walk in the reality of God’s love. (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11)*

1 John 4:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

- “perfect love casts out fear” – *When we have complete faith in God and His love for us, it brings us to a place where we are free from fear no matter what we face, even if we are facing death.*

Revelation 1:5 (NKJV)

⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

- *“To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood - Since the love language of Heaven is sacrifice, then the way we come to complete faith and confidence in God’s love is by contemplating His sacrifice for us.*
- *Under the Mosaic covenant the priests were required to perform the morning and evening sacrifices daily.*
- *We are to begin our day by turning our attention to the Lord and consider, meditate, and allow the impact of Jesus’ sacrifice at Calvary to resonate through our being.*
- *We are to end our day turning our attention to the Lord, again considering Jesus’ suffering for us.*
- *There are innumerable blessings we can be thankful for because of all of that God has done for us, but foremost is Jesus Christ’s sacrifice at Calvary.*

Romans 8:32 (NKJV)

³²He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

- *“how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” – As we contemplate the great cost God willingly paid for our salvation our confidence in His love will enable us to fully trust Him to provide all our needs.*
- *The first aspect of abiding in God’s love, which we have just looked at, is to cultivate complete confidence in His unconditional love for us by hearing the love language of Heaven as God speaks to us through Christ’s sacrifice for us.*
- *The second aspect of abiding in God’s love is by speaking the love language of Heaven through sacrifice and obedience.*

John 15:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

¹⁰If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

- “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love” – *Obedience is the way we abide in God’s love.*
- “Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” (Luke 11:28). *Blessing and obedience are linked.*
- *The way we express our love for God is through our willingness to be obedient to Him.*
- “As the Father loved Me” – *Jesus fully knew the Father’s love.*
- “just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love” – *Jesus was completely confident of His Father’s love, because He was fully yielded and obedient to His Father.*
- *Our obedience and surrender does not cause God to love us more, but it does make His love more real to us.*

1 John 5:3 (NKJV)

³For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

- “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments” - *The way we love God is by observing and obeying His commandments.*
- “And His commandments are not burdensome” – *When we love God, we do not view His commandments as difficult, troublesome, or unreasonable, but precious and wonderful.*
- *One of the vast differences between legalism and grace is that legalism seeks to obey out of fear, and grace seeks to obey out of love.*
- *The Pharisees obeyed out of fear and had no love, but Jesus’ disciples obeyed out of love and had no fear.*
- *Legalism produces a joyless obedience, because it is motivated out of fear and His commandments become burdensome.*
- *Love produces a joyful obedience, because it is motivated by a desire to delight the heart of God and His commandments are seen as precious.*

1 John 3:23 (NKJV)

²³And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

- *1 John 3:23 summarizes His commandment.*
- *“that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ” – The first facet of keeping His commandment is that our lives would be saturated with faith in Jesus Christ, so that all we do, say, and even think would be born out of faith.*
- *“and love one another” – The second facet of keeping His commandments is that we would live sacrificial lives, so that God’s love would flow through us to others.*

1 John 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

- *We know that God loves us because Jesus died for us and the way we express our love for God is by living a life of self-sacrifice, so that His love will be expressed through us.*
- *Through the sacrifice of laying down our lives so others can experience God’s love is how we experience God’s love.*
- *The opposite of love is not hate.*
- *The opposite of love is selfishness.*
- *The way we overcome selfishness is through sacrifice and that is one reason that sacrifice is God’s love language.*
- *It is important to understand that selfishness and self-centeredness hinder us from experiencing the life changing power of God’s love. Self-sacrifice puts to death our selfish nature so that we can enjoy God’s love.*
- *God expressed His love for us through sacrifice and specifically the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. (John 3:16).*
- *The way we experience God’s love is by expressing our love for Him.*
- *The way we express our love for God is through sacrifice.*
- *As we live a life of self-sacrifice for Christ we experience His love.*

- *The times that we have difficulty experiencing God's love are when our focus is turned inward toward ourselves and our own feelings.*
- *When we turn our hearts towards what Jesus Christ has done for us, then we are in a position to be able to understand the love of God.*
- *God's love becomes real to us not through feelings or experiences, but as we surrender our lives to Him in obedience.*
- *We may have times we "feel" God's love, or we may have experiences that confirm God's love, or we may have times when God reveals His love through circumstances. However, feelings, experiences, and circumstances are fleeting, unpredictable, and changeable.*
- *It is when we act upon God's love in obedience that we are able to enjoy His love.*
- *We are not transformed simply by being loved, we are transformed by loving in return.*

Titus 3:4 (NKJV)

⁴But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,

- *God loves every single person, but not every person will be saved—only those who respond to the love of God.*
- *God loves each Christian. However, not every Christian will be transformed by His love, only those who respond to His love by loving in return through obedience.*

Romans 8:28–29 (NKJV)

²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

²⁹For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

- *“And we know that all things work together for good” – The redeeming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ is God taking all the experiences in our lives, the good, the bad, the joyful and the painful, and weaving them together to form a tapestry for His glory.*

- *“to those who love God” – The requirement for God’s redeeming power to be manifested in our lives is that we respond to His love by loving Him in return.*
- *“to be conformed to the image of His Son” – The good that God will accomplish through all these experiences is that we will become just like Jesus!!!!*
- *The power of God’s love is only released into our lives when we respond by loving Him and loving others with God’s love.*
- *Jesus said the first and greatest commandment is to love God and to love each other. (Matthew 23:37).*
- *God loves us regardless of whether we love Him, but if we choose not to love Him, then we will remain in the same cycle of failure and defeat.*
- *This principle of loving God explains why some Christians live victorious and joyful lives, while others live defeated and unhappy lives.*

John 15:9 (NKJV)

⁹*“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.*

- *“As the Father loved Me” - Jesus was able to fully love everyone around Him, including those who crucified Him, because He fully knew His Father’s love for Him.*

Luke 6:12 (NKJV)

¹²*Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.*

- *Jesus sacrificed His time to spend time in prayer to commune with His Father, not only to know His Father’s will, but also to know His Father’s heart.*
- *We also need to sacrifice our time daily to spend time with God to be enriched in His love.*

Luke 22:41–42 (NKJV)

⁴¹*And He was withdrawn from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and prayed,*

⁴²*saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.”*

- *“nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done” – Jesus’ prayer is the greatest expression of love and it was followed by the greatest sacrifice in all eternity.*
- *Jesus gave the Church two foundational ordinances so we can be established in the love of God.*
- *The first ordinance is communion and the second one is water baptism.*

1 Corinthians 11:24–25 (NKJV)

²⁴and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

²⁵In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

- *Communion is a tangible way to remember Jesus’ suffering and His great love for us.*

Matthew 28:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹Go 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,

- *Water baptism is a tangible way of declaring our faith and love for Jesus and our desire to live sacrificial obedient lives for Him.*
- *Communion is an expression of God’s love for us and water baptism is an expression of our love for Him.*
- *Boredom is the not lack of activity, but the lack of satisfaction with life.*
- *Boredom is a sure sign we’re not in abiding in God’s love, because God’s love will always fill us with a deep satisfaction independent of circumstances or activities.*
- *When I am feeling dissatisfied with the circumstances of life, the solution is quick and easy—I simply turn my attention back to Jesus and His great sacrifice.*

John 14:31 (NKJV)

³¹But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.

- “that the world may know the I love the Father” – *Jesus’ love for the Father was perfectly expressed through His total obedience to the Father.*
- “Arise, let us go from here” – *Jesus willingness to go the cross is the perfect expression of His love for the Father.*

1 John 2:5 (NKJV)

⁵But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

- *Keeping His word will result in God’s love being perfected in our hearts and lives.*
- *In Jesus we see both love languages demonstrated— complete sacrifice and perfect obedience.*
- *Let us imitate Jesus’ example.*