

# BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

## SERMON OUTLINE

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### “UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATING THE LOVE OF GOD”

#### 1 John 4:7-21

The Bible says that God “is” three things: God is light, God is Spirit, and God is love. Notice that **1 John 4:8, 16** doesn’t say, “God is loving.” It says, “**God is love**”—and there is a difference.

Even though I used the same word “love” to describe my feelings toward my wife and toward the town of Erie, I trust you realize that I don’t love them in quite the same way.

Many of you have also heard of the 3 Greek words that are most often translated “love” - “eros, phileo, and agape.” We realize that they express different kinds of love, but, at the same time, we generally translate all 3 of them into the single English word “love”.

1. **EROS** love refers to physical passion and from that Greek word for love we get our English word “erotic”.
2. **PHILEO** is a “brotherly kind of love.” From this word we get the word “philanthropy,”
3. **AGAPE** is the word that the New Testament writers used to describe God’s love.

So, when the Bible says that “**God is agape love**” it means that God doesn’t love us with just a surface type of love, but He loves us with an all-sacrificing love. He gives Himself completely to express His love.

Let us consider God’s love... first . . .

#### 1. The Love Of God is UNCONDITIONAL

Look again at V-19. **Ephesians 2:4-8; Romans 3:10-12.**  
**Look at V-10 again.**

Secondly, we see . . .

#### 2. The Love Of God Is UNENDING

**Jeremiah 31:3; Ephesians 1:4-6.** Those who know the love of Jesus can boldly quote **Romans 8:38-39. I Corinthians 13:8**  
**“Love never fails.”**

One of my favorite Country singers is George Strait who sings a song entitled, “*Love without End, Amen.*” It tells the story of a young boy coming home from school after having a fight and expecting punishment from his dad.

Now lastly, we see that . . .

#### 3. The Love Of God is UNCHANGEABLE

**Malachi 3:6; James 1:17;**

May the Holy Spirit allow us to see God for who He really is and especially understand the Love Of God which is

- ◆ UNCONDITIONAL
- ◆ UNENDING and
- ◆ UNCHANGEABLE

“**God is love,**” then, is not simply a profound biblical statement. It is the basis for a believer's relationship with God and with his fellow man. Because God is love, we can love. His love is not past history; it is present reality.