



Love is _____

How would you fill in that blank? How have you heard other people fill in that blank? **What is LOVE?** This month, let's think carefully about that. And let's not just listen to each other, or what we see on TV or YouTube. How does **God**, our **Creator**, fill in that blank? **What is LOVE?**



First up, **love honors God**. Can you find **Matthew 22** in your Bible?

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus a great question. **“Teacher, which is the **greatest** commandment in the Law?”** And how did Jesus answer? Listen carefully...

“You shall _____ the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and _____ commandment.” (Matthew 22:37-38)

Okay, but what does that **mean**? **1 John 4**, near the end of our Bibles, provides a great place to start. Can you fill in the blanks of these big ideas?

- _____ is love (1 John 4:8)
- Love is _____ God (1 John 4:7)
- God's love is shown most clearly in the sending of his _____ so that we might _____ (1 John 4:9-10)

Alright, but what will it **look like** for us to love?

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and _____ himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:1-2)

A lot of people have the wrong idea that love means letting me do whatever I want to do. That's exactly backwards. Love is giving myself up, first to God. Love is a **choice** to put others—God above all—ahead of myself. I **honor** God by presenting myself as a **“living sacrifice”** (Romans 12:1-2).

Love is the **commitment** of an imperfect person to **honor** a **perfect God**.

FOUNDATION STONES

We heard Mr. Jason say that a lot of people have the wrong idea about love. Love **DOESN'T** mean letting me do whatever I want to do.



Let's think about that... why is it **NOT** really love for a parent, or grandparent, or teacher to just let me do whatever I want to do?

Do you remember what we read from **1 John 4:8-9**?

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

Psalm 33:5 tells us that "the earth is **full of the steadfast love of the LORD.**" Where do **YOU** see God's love? When you think about the ways he has shown his love for you, what do you think of?

So what will it look like for **YOU** to love God? How can you **HONOR** him, at your age?

Can you find **John 14:15** in your Bible? These are words of Jesus. Listen carefully to what he says and fill in these really important blanks:

"If you _____ me, you will keep my _____."