



John
1:1-14, 3:16-19
New International Version
1984 (NIV1984)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was with God in the beginning.

³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood^[a] it.

⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.^[b]

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent,^[c] nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only,^[d] who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 3

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,^[e] that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

Sermon Notes

THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS IS LOVE

“Not as you define it, but as God defines it!”

✧ Love **AWAKENS** a dull Heart

Love is not boring, dry or indifferent.

Love energizes, inspires and dreams.

“God's kindness leads you toward repentance” Romans 2:24

✧ Love **HEALS** all wounds

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Psalm 147:3

“Anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal. Jn 12:25

Love shakes you up, tears apart your ego a little bit, shows you your obstacles and addictions, break your heart open so new light can get in

✧ Love makes us **COMPLETE**

“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.” 1 John 4:9

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

“Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage.” — Lao Tzu

“Where there is love there is life.” — Mahatma Gandhi

God lives in us and **his love** is made complete in us. 1 John 4:12

You can give a gift or you can give Life.

“The best love is the kind that awakens the soul and makes us reach for more, that plants a fire in our hearts and brings peace to our minds. And that's what you've given me.

That's what I'd hoped to give you forever” — [Nicholas Sparks](#)

“Love is a fire. But whether it is going to warm your hearth or burn down your house, you can never tell.”

— [Joan Crawford](#)

“People think a soul mate is your perfect fit, and that's what everyone wants. But a true soul mate is a mirror, the person who shows you everything that is holding you back, the person who brings you to your own attention so you can change your life.

A true soul mate is probably the most important person you'll ever meet, because they tear down your walls and smack you awake. But to live with a soul mate forever? Nah. Too painful. Soul mates, they come into your life just to reveal another layer of yourself to you, and then leave.

A soul mates purpose is to shake you up, tear apart your ego a little bit, show you your obstacles and addictions, break your heart open so new light can get in, make you so desperate and out of control that you have to transform your life, then introduce you to your spiritual master...” — [Elizabeth Gilbert, Eat, Pray, Love](#)

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.”

— [C.S. Lewis, The Four Loves](#)



Sermon Discussion Guide

Joy In All Circumstances

Two different Greek words are translated as "love" in the New Testament, and they have more specific meanings than our English word "love."

Agapao (verb) and agape (noun). This is the "Christian love" of the Bible. It means affection, benevolence, good-will, high esteem and concern for the welfare of the one loved. It is deliberate, purposeful love rather than emotional or impulsive love. Almost all of the New Testament references to love are *agapao* or *agape* in the original Greek.

Phileo (verb). This means to love in an impulsive and emotional way. It is seldom used in the Bible, but there is a play on words (lost in English) in [John 21:15-17](#). Jesus says to Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly

love (*agapao*) me?" Peter answers, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love (*phileo*) you." **Philadelphia** is a related word meaning the love of brothers or sisters (e.g., [Romans 12:10](#)). It is often translated "brotherly love."

In His Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus explained that we should consider all the people of the world to be our "neighbors." Just as God loves all His people, so should we. Jesus calls us to extend our love even to our enemies!