Bible Study: God is Love

Passages to read: John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; 1 John 4:7-21

Related passages for personal study:

- of God (Father) - origin: Rom. 5:5; 1John 2:5,15; 3:1; 4:7-10, 5:2-3
- of Christ - manifestation: John 14:21,31; Rom. 8:35-39; Eph. 3:19; 5:2, 5:25; 1Jn 3:16
- of Holy Spirit - impartation: Rom. 5:5, 15:30; Gal. 5:22

What is love?

Generally, Love is an earnest desire for the well-being of another.

Different words used in the Scriptures:

Agape: Someone who loves like this loves like God: they choose to love, even though the person they love may not be worthy of that love.
Example: Rom. 5:8

Phileo: Natural human affection, with its strong feeling
Example: John 11:3

Philadelphia: The love which Christians have for each other as brothers & sisters
Example: Rom. 12:10

Aspects To Consider:

- God’s love toward His Son (John 17:21-26)
- God’s love toward sinners (John 3:16; Romans 5:8)
- God’s love toward His own, the Saints (1John 3:1)
- Our love toward God (2Corinthians 5:14-15; John 14:15)

What does love do? (Includes our love for one another)

- Works no ill toward others (Romans 13:10)
- Giving selflessly (Galatians 5:13, 1 John 3:16)
- Obedience (John 14:15)
- Seeks to build up others (1 Corinthians 8:1)
- Forgives (1 Peter 4:8)
- See also: 1Corinthians 13:4-7, Romans 12:10, Ephesians 4:2,15, etc.

How should God’s love affect me?

Questions for Discussion:

- Does God always act in love?
- How can God hate when “God is love”?
- Why does God chasten (discipline)?