

## HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN LOVE?

Text: John 3:16a

16 For God so loved the world

Introduction: Have you ever been in love? Have you ever felt those ‘special feelings.’ Those empty “I need to be near you, to be with you feelings.” I have! I am twitter pated! I am enamored! I have tasted the sweet honey of loves affections and I can hardly escape my desires to be held, to be made over, to be touched, to embrace to respond.

If this kind of language is bothering you, I need to let you know this is how God has been speaking to me about you. In fact, if you would re-read your Bible, you would recognize that this whole Book is about a God who is in love with His creation and how He has sought to restore our affection to Him. You see, He has never stopped loving us – mankind – and He never will!

Let me share with you some interesting facts revealed to me by God recently. One night in December, my last words before closing my eyes for the last time were “God, thank You for loving me!” So early the next morning He woke me with words of endearment and expressions of His love and He opened up His heart to me that I might hear His Heart. Now, I am praying that the Holy Spirit will help me communicate on His behalf these marvelous truths from His Word that will hopefully reveal to you His love for you.

### I. Daily Walks

A. It all starts with God in a Garden.

Gen 3:8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

1. God would walk with them.
  2. God would talk with them.
- B. The Garden was the place where God would spend time with His new creation.

## II. Covenants of Endearment

### A. A covenant with all living things

Gen 9:9 "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you

10 and with every living creature that was with you — the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you — every living creature on earth.

11 I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."

12 And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come:

13 I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

### B. A covenant with man.

Gen 15:18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates —

19 the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites,

20 Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites,

21 Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites."

C. A covenant with a nation, a people.

Ex 19:5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

### III. Invitations to Lunch.

A. Special days with God were called "Feast Days."

Ex 12:17 "Celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come.

B. Feast of Harvest.

Ex 23:16 "Celebrate the Feast of Harvest with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field. "Celebrate the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in your crops from the field.

1. Celebrate the things I have blessed you with.
2. Celebrate the things I have increased you with.

C. Feast of Weeks

Ex 34:22 "Celebrate the Feast of Weeks with the firstfruits of the wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the turn of the year.

1. At the beginning of the harvest.
2. At the completion of the harvest.

D. Passover

Ex 34:25 "Do not offer the blood of a sacrifice to me along with anything containing yeast, and do not let any of the sacrifice from the Passover Feast remain until morning.

#### E. Peace Offering

Lev 7:11 This is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings which he shall offer to the LORD:

12 If he offers it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer, with the sacrifice of thanksgiving, unleavened cakes mixed with oil, unleavened wafers anointed with oil, or cakes of blended flour mixed with oil.

13 Besides the cakes, as his offering he shall offer leavened bread with the sacrifice of thanksgiving of his peace offering.

14 And from it he shall offer one cake from each offering as a heave offering to the LORD. It shall belong to the priest who sprinkles the blood of the peace offering.

15 'The flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offering for thanksgiving shall be eaten the same day it is offered. He shall not leave any of it until morning.

1. The priest represented God's presence
2. "Don't leave early! Stay until everyone is full!"

#### IV. Put My Chair in the Center

A. The Tent of Meeting was to be placed in the middle of their camp.

1. This was the place where God would t  
tabernacle with His people.
2. This was where man met with God.

#### V. Food Fit for a King

A. Manna –angel’s food

Ps 78:23 Yet he gave a command to the skies above and opened the doors of the heavens;

24 he rained down manna for the people to eat, he gave them the grain of heaven.

25 Men ate the bread of angels; he sent them all the food they could eat.

B. Meat in abundance

Ps 78:26 He let loose the east wind from the heavens and led forth the south wind by his power.

27 He rained meat down on them like dust, flying birds like sand on the seashore.

28 He made them come down inside their camp, all around their tents.

VI. Instructions [Laws] that Protect

A. Food laws that kept them safe.

1. Meats that required special preparation to be safe.

2. Foods that had a short shelf life.

B. Social laws that kept them free.

C. Moral laws that worked for their good.

VII. Invitations for Intimacy.

A. For closeness.

Song 1:2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth — for your love is more delightful than wine.

B. For fellowship

Song 1:4 Take me away with you — let us hurry! Let the king bring me into his chambers. We rejoice and delight in you; we will praise your love more than wine. How right they are to adore you!

## VII. I am Important to Him.

A. He knows us!

Psalms 139:1 O LORD, you have searched me and you know me.

B. He knows and hears our every word and thought.

2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

4 Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.

C. His eyes are ever on us to keep us from harm.

5 You hem me in — behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

D. He is never far from us.

7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"

12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

He watches over our very creation as we were formed in the womb.

13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,

16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

E. David reminds us how precious are God's thought towards us.

17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

18 Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.

Conclusion: Love is the Language of the Bible  
Lessons of Love Firsthand

A. He is Immanuel God with us.

B. His love is compared to that of a Mother's Love.

C. He has made provision for us to live in His Father's House.

Words from the Beloved Disciple

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

1 John 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

1 John 4:7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

9 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.

10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Eternity begins with a Wedding

Rev 19:9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

I was given instructions that I was to declare to you that GOD LOVES YOU! But some of you are saying, “Pastor, I don’t know God. I have never asked for forgiveness of sin nor acknowledged Him as Lord and Savior in my life.”

Listen to what is declared to you in the Bible.  
Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.  
1 Tim 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners —

GOD’S AFFECTIONS ARE DIRECTED TOWARDS  
YOU AND ME HIS CHILDREN  
ACCEPT HIS EMBRACES  
ACKNOWLEDGE HIS PRESENCE  
YIELD TO HIS SPIRIT  
REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS  
DELIGHT IN HIM WHO LOVES YOU WITH AN  
EVERLASTING LOVE!