

I John 4:16 (MSG) “We know it so well, we’ve embraced it heart and soul, this love that comes from God. To Love, to Be Loved - God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us.”

### Two Key Question:

#### First: Why do people **AVOID** God?

I want to give you three common fears.

#### FEAR #1: I'm afraid that I'll have to give up my **FUN**.

I Timothy 6:17 (LB) “Trust in the living God who always richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.”

Matthew 11:19 (Phillips) says "Jesus came enjoying life."

#### FEAR #2: I'm afraid I'll become a **FANATIC**.

John 10:10 (NASB) “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

#### FEAR #3: I'm afraid I'll lose my **FREEDOM**.

John 8:36 (NLT) Jesus said, "If the Son sets you free, you will be really free!"

### How do you get rid of those kinds of fears?

I John 4:18 (MSG) “There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love.”

#### Second: How **MUCH** does God love me?

Ephesians 3:17-18 (NLT) “Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.”

#### 1. God’s love is wide enough to include **EVERYBODY**.

Psalms 145:17 (MSG) “Everything God does is right—the trademark on all his works is love.”

John 3:16 (NASB) For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

#### 2. God’s love is long enough to last **FOREVER**.

Jeremiah 31:3 (NLT) “ Long ago the LORD said: “I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself.”

Psalms 89:2 (NLT) “Your unfailing love will last forever. Your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens.”

## SERMON TITLE

### 3. God's love is high enough to be **EVERYWHERE**.

Romans 8:38-39 (NLT) "And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

1 Thessalonians 4:13 (NLT) "And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope."

### 4. God's love is deep enough to meet my every **NEED**.

Psalms 40:11 (Phillips) "My only hope is your love for my problems are too big for me to solve and are piled over my head."

Deuteronomy 33:27 (NLT) "The eternal God is your refuge and His everlasting arms are underneath you."

John 15:13 (NKJV) "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Romans 5:8 (NLT) "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

Ephesians 2:10 (NASB) "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

#### **Application:**

What fear do you have that keeps you from fully embracing God's love?

Identify a time when you experienced the full impact of God's love for you.

At this present time would you say you are very close to the love of God or far from the love of God?

If you are far from God at this time when did you move away from that nearness?

What do you need to do to draw near again to the love that you have experienced from God?

Is there anyone that you know that needs to experience the love of God?

What do you need to do to share that love with others?

What do you need to do to adjust your life to the truths you have learned through this study?

**Memory Verse:** 1 John 4:16 (NLT) "We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them."