

# God's love and discipline

What is love?

- Affection – a deep feeling for somebody
- Romantic – a sensual feeling towards somebody
- Enjoyment – a strong feeling of enjoyment

- God's love is defined as agape kind of love
- The word agape represents divine, unconditional, self-sacrificing, active, volitional, everlasting, and thoughtful love.
  - Romans 5: 6-8 '6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.'

# How do we know that God loves us

- As His children we know because Jesus died for us –
  - **1 John 4:9-10** “<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”
  - **John 3:16** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

# How to respond to God's love

- By accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord in our lives
  - Acts 3:19 'Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.'

- Trusting Him in every situation
- **Romans 5:2-5** '2Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5aand hope does not put us to shame,,,,,'.

- Walking with Him –
  - Micah 6:8 ‘He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

- By being thankful always –
  - Hebrews 12: 28 ‘Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.’

# Can Christians (God's Children) fall out of His love?

- Yes – through sin and unbelief
  - John 15: 10 “If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love.”

## What should we do if we fall out of God's love

- Repentance –
  - 1 John 1: 8-9 “<sup>8</sup>If we say we have no sin, the truth is not in us,,,,,,,”
  - 1 John 2: 1-2 ‘<sup>1</sup>My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup>He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.’

- To ignore God's love is to ensure one's downfall
  - Proverbs 13: 18 'Whoever disregards discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honoured.'
  - Proverbs 15: 32 'Those who disregard discipline despise themselves, but the one who heeds correction gains understanding.'

# God disciplines His children

- God's discipline stems from love and its purpose is for our own good – Proverbs 3:11-12
- Like fathers to bring out the best in us
- To give us everlasting life – 1 John 2:25

- This is a very beautiful opportunity today to accept God's love
  - Rev 3: 20 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me'
  - 2 Corinthians 6: 2 'For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.'

