

Definition and Description	God's Love in Salvation	Conclusions and Response
<p>Definition: 2617 חַסֵּד, <i>chesed</i> 26 ἀγάπη <i>agape</i></p> <p>Old Testament: = goodness, faithfulness = unfailing kindness, devotion = steadfastness, strength of love It is often associated with "truth" and also "faithfulness" (Ps. 25:10, 86:15, 89:24, 100:5)</p> <p>New Testament: Generally: = affection, goodwill, benevolence Referring to God's love: = His willful direction toward man = He does what is best for man (e.g. John 3:16)</p> <p>God's love is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - holy - consistent with all His attributes - infinite, limitless, unfathomable, great (Ps. 103:11; Eph. 3:18-19, 2:4-5) - everlasting, eternal (Ps. 136:1-2; Jer. 31:3) - unchanging (Micah 7:18; James 1:17) - sacrificial (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; Gal. 2:20; 1 John 4:9-10) - bestowed sovereignly by grace (Deut. 10:15; John 15:16; Rom. 5:8, 9:13-16) - expressed, experienced and understood in Christ (Eph. 2:4-7, 3:14-19) - made evident in salvation, the forgiveness of sins (Exo. 34:6-7; Isa. 53:4-6; 1 Pet. 2:24-25) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We must be careful not to distort God's love when we witness to a sinful, lost and dying world 2. God hates sin and all those who do sin (Lev. 20:23, 26:30; Deut. 18:12; Ps. 5:4-5, 11:5) 3. God loved sinners in that He gave His Son to die in their place and that if they would believe, they would not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16) 4. If they do not believe and obey the Son, God's wrath abides on them (John 3:36) 5. Those who believe and obey will be loved by the Father. They will be saved. (John 14:23) 6. God <u>loves</u> (continually) those who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - love Him and keep His commandments (Exo. 20:6; Ps. 25:10) - are His servants who walk before Him with all their heart (1 Kings 8:23) - trust in the LORD (Ps. 32:10) - call on Him (Ps. 86:5) - fear Him (Ps. 103:11, 17) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The love of God is readily accepted and assumed but tragically misunderstood. It is not <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - love patterned after human love - good-natured indulgence - amiable weakness (AW Pink – <i>Gleanings in the Godhead</i> 1975) 2. The creation of all things, God's dealings with Israel throughout history and His glorious work of salvation are all acts of His great lovingkindness. (Ps. 136; 1 John 4:9) 3. The love of God is the standard for the love we are to demonstrate in our lives as believers (Mt. 5:43-48; John 15:7-12; 1 John 3:10-11) 4. It is the love of Jesus Christ that controls us - compels us, urges us on (2 Cor. 5:14) 5. Love for others is the evidence of salvation, a true faith in Jesus 6. The absence of love indicates a false conversion - no salvation has taken place (1 John 2:9-11, 3:14-17, 4:7-10)