

# What is Love?

- A. Love is \_\_\_\_\_. It's hard to imagine the number of answers that have been offered to fill in that blank.  
B. We want to look beyond ourselves, past the mirages of popular culture, and consult the Creator.

## Is there anything more important to understand and pursue than love?

- Which is the \_\_\_\_\_ commandment in the Law? (*Matt 22:34-40*)
- What new commandment did the Son of God give? (*John 13:34*)
- How will people \_\_\_\_\_ that we are disciples of Jesus? (*John 13:35*)
- Is it really that important? (*1 Cor 13:3*)

## Where do we even begin to understand? “Love so amazing, so divine...”

- “\_\_\_\_\_ is love” (*1 John 4:8*)
- “Love is from God” (*1 John 4:7*)
- “In this the love of God was made \_\_\_\_\_ among us, that God sent his only Son” (*1 John 4:9*)
- “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us” (*1 John 4:10*)

## What does all of that have to do with me? “...demands my soul, my life, my all”

- “This is love, that we walk according to his \_\_\_\_\_” (*2 John 6*)
- “This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments” (*1 John 5:3*)
- “Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one \_\_\_\_\_” (*1 John 4:11*)
- “If we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us” (*1 John 4:12*)

## What will “perfected” love look like? “Were the whole realm of nature mine...”

- In *2 Corinthians 8:8*, Paul identified “genuine” love among the churches of Macedonia. How so?
  - ⇒ *8:1*—genuine love is awakened and enabled by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God
  - ⇒ *8:2a*—the grace of God produces an abundance of \_\_\_\_\_
  - ⇒ *8:2b*—abundance of joy in God’s grace overflows in the showing of grace to \_\_\_\_\_
  - ⇒ *8:3-9*—\_\_\_\_\_ love is the overflow and expansion of joy in God which sacrificially and gladly meets the needs of others
- Genuine love cherishes God as the supreme \_\_\_\_\_ of the universe and therefore wants others also to experience and cherish the supreme Treasure, even at the cost of personal sacrifice.
  - ⇒ If God so loved us... (*Jer 31:3*)
  - ⇒ ...we also ought to love one another. What will it take? (*Jude 17-25*)
    - \* \_\_\_\_\_ (17)
    - \* Building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit (20)
    - \* \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves in the love of God (21)
    - \* Waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life (21)
    - \* Showing \_\_\_\_\_ to others (22-23)
    - \* Thereby exalting God as the supreme Treasure of the universe (24-25)