

"Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world." – 1 Jn. 4:7-14

Our experience OF love empowers us to BE love

The Invitation from the Manger: To LIVE LIFE Differently

Christmas love is PROFOUND

"Long ago the LORD said to Israel: 'I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself.'" – Jer. 31:3

"So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son." – Jn. 1:14

"Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes." – Eph. 1:4

Christmas love is PERSISTENT

"The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease." – Lam 3:22

"Where is another God like you... you delight in showing unfailing love." – Mic. 7:18

Christmas love is PROVEN

"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." – Rom. 5:8

"When the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children." – Gal. 4:4-5

Christmas love is PERFECTING

"Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance." – 1 Cor. 13:7

"Let love be your highest goal!" – 1 Cor. 14:1

"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." – Eph. 3:17

"I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding." – Phil. 1:9

Christmas love is PROVOCATIVE

"But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you." – Lk. 6:27

"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." – Jn. 13:35

Christmas love is PERSONAL

"This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you." – Jn. 15:12

"Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God." – Eph. 5:2

"Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity." – 1 Tim. 4:12

"We love each other because he loved us first." 1 Jn. 4:19

Advent Challenge: Let the love from the manger LIVE in you