



*Summer of Love: Love is Proven*  
*July 22/23, 2017*  
*Darren DeGraaf, Senior Associate Pastor*  
*1 John 3:11-24*

1. We love God because He FIRST LOVED us.
  - 1 John 4:19
2. We can KNOW that God loves us, He PROVES that He does:
  - 1 John 3:16, Romans 5:8, 1 John 4:16
3. How do we PROVE that we truly love?

a. John gives us a crystal clear definition of love: a single word:  
SACRIFICE

*"This is how we KNOW what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."*  
1 John 3:16 (NIV)

*"When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die"* ~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

b. With ACTIONS and in TRUTH

*"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth".* 1 John 3:18 (NIV)

*"If I am really for a person, I am willing to risk saying painful things, if pain is the only way to bring growth. True love is ready to warn, remove, confront or admonish when necessary."* ~ John Ortberg

- c. Biblical love is both COMPASSIONATE and TRUTH-TELLING
  - 1 Peter 4:8, 1 Corinthians 13:5, Ephesians 4:15, Psalm 103:8,10

*"Love's intention, is in part, to destroy the arrogance and ugliness in the beloved's soul in order to enhance their God-given beauty"* ~ Dan Allendar

4. We must KNOW and COMMUNICATE who God is and UNDERSTAND our relationship to Him

- a. We and others MISUNDERSTAND God
  - 1 John 3:13, John 15:18
- b. We misunderstand our RELATIONSHIP to God.
  - 1 John 3:1, Hebrews 12:5-7

5. True love of God is demonstrated in our OBEDIENCE to Him.

- 2 John 1:6, John 14:15, John 14:23, John 15:10, 1 John 4:13

6. How are we to know and remember all that He has COMMANDED?

- Matthew 22:37-40, John 13:34

*Note: To learn more about "Loving our Enemies" through practical video testimonies, visit these sites (Please note that Beulah bought the sermon central video so that you could watch it if you have time):*

Egypt - <https://vimeo.com/221745472>

The West Bank - <https://vimeo.com/29677206>

Bethlehem - <https://www.sermoncentral.com/church-media-preaching-sermons/sermon-video-illustrations/love-your-enemy-6152-detail?ref=SermonDetails>