

# God is love (And that’s it), and are we God?

- Introduction part #1 ..... 2
  - 1 John 4:16b ..... 2
  - 1 John 4:1 ..... 2
- God is also: ..... 2
- God Loves Truth, Satan Loves Half-Truths ..... 3
  - 2 Timothy 3:1-5 ..... 3
  - Examples..... 3
- A Godly response to half truth ..... 3
- The consequences of believing in a half truth ..... 4
  - Genesis 3:16-19 ..... 4
- What is Biblical love?..... 4
  - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 ..... 4
- There is a problem..... 4
  - Romans 6:23a ..... 5
  - John 3:18b ..... 5
- The solution ..... 5
  - Romans 6:23 ..... 5
  - John 3:16-18 ..... 5
- The price ..... 5
  - John 3:16 ..... 5
- This is love..... 5
  - 1 John 4:19 ..... 5
  - John 15:16 ..... 5
  - Romans 5:8-10..... 5
- Bring a balanced Gospel ..... 6
- Are we there? No we are not...Sadly... part #2..... 7
  - We are God!?..... 8
  - Philippians 4:13 ..... 8
  - 1 John 4:19 ..... 8
- But what about Philipans 4:13, that says the same! Or does it...?..... 8
  - Philippians 4: 10-13 ..... 8
- Conclusion ..... 9
- What to do today?..... 9

And what if they don't listen? .....	9
Romans 16:17-18.....	9
2 Timothy 3:16-17 .....	9
Matthew 10:12-15.....	9

## Introduction part #1

A thing that you very often hear is: God is love. And yes, He is love. But He is WAY more than that.... If we go with "God is Love and that's it", that's a half truth... and a very dangerous one....

Let's start with this bible verse:

### 1 John 4:16b

*God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.*

A trigger when someone is using this verse is.... Its only verse 16b..... When people use only one vers to base a complete theology on, that is a red flag. So, lets look at the whole chapter...

It begins with:

### 1 John 4:1

*Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

And here is the thing... the "God is love" we hear every single sermon on Sunday, but the warning about false teachers... when was the last time you heard that in church? Or anywhere else? But both things are in the same chapter...

That they are in the same chapter does mean something... God loves us so much, He also warns us for bad behavior and tells us what the consequences are for sinning... so God is more then "just Love"....

## God is also:

- Just (Deuteronomy 32:4)
- Merciful (Proverbs 28:13)
- Holy (Leviticus 20:26)
- Righteous (Psalm 145:17)
- Grace (John 1:14)
- Truth (John 1:14)
- Faithful (I Corinthians 10:13)
- Etc....

And here we come to the point of this bible study... we need to have a balanced perspective of who God is. If its not balanced (in any way or form), what sort of God do we believe in? The true God, or one that we made up ourselves.....

## God Loves Truth, Satan Loves Half-Truths

Satan is exceptionally good at using half-truths instead of straight lies. He likes to tell just enough truth about God that it seems biblical...but it is not...

### 2 Timothy 3:1-5

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— **having a form of godliness** but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

God's love does not exist without His standards for you, His salvation without repentance by you, His blessings without responsibilities for you. (for instance) God is love, looks like its correct, but it is a half truth...

### Examples

Let us look at some examples in the bible where satan himself does exactly this:

- Satan quoted Psalm 91 to Jesus to trick Jesus into a half truth. (Matthew 4:1-11).
- In Genesis 3:4-5, we see satan trying to trick eve into eating “the apple” and satans words look Godly... but are not.

When you look at those words that satan said to Eve... there is some truth in it.... But its not the whole truth. Half of what Satan told Eve was true: her eyes were opened to good and evil. But she did not become like God. Instead, she became less like God through unbelief and sin.

## A Godly response to half truth

Satan uses a half truth in Matthew 4:5-6:

*“Then the devil took him [Jesus] to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, ‘He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands, so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.’”*

And that is indeed written in the bible in Psalm 91:11-12, but we should not take one bible verse and build a whole theology on it... look what Jesus said when the bible took that one passage from the bible and abused it:

Matthew 4:7

Jesus responded, “The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the Lord your God.’”

And that is written in Deuteronomy 6:16.

What Jesus did there was a huge example for you and me. Jesus knew the scriptures, **in and out**. And He knew, straight away, that satan was telling a half truth and was trying to abuse Psalm 91:11-12.

And to finish him off... Jesus says this:

Matthew 4:10

Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” (Deuteronomy 6:13)

Let that be an example for all of us. STUDY Gods word, know it, in and out, just Like Jesus did, so we don’t fall for the half truth... because the consequences of believing that half truth are devastating.

## The consequences of believing in a half truth

### Genesis 3:16-19

To the woman he said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

## What is Biblical love?

### 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

And that's a long list...

1. Patient
2. Kind
3. Does not envy
4. Does not boast
5. Is not proud
6. Does not dishonor others
7. Not self-seeking
8. Not easily angered
9. Keeps no record of wrongs
10. Does not delight in evil
11. Rejoices with the truth
12. Always protects
13. Always trusts
14. Always hopes
15. Always perseveres

Wow... and since God is love, He is also all of the above and expects us to be the same....

## There is a problem.....

If that's true biblical love, its impossible to be all of that. We are humans and do sin.

### Romans 3:23

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

And if we do not love, the bible is clear, then we don't know God:

### 1 John 4:8

Whoever does not love **does not know God**, because God is love.

1 John 4:20

If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, **he is a liar**; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

And the consequences of that are clear:

Romans 6:23a

For the wages of sin is death,

John 3:18b

but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

If you look carefully, you see what did happen with those 2 verse? Yes, they were only one part of one verse..... Thank God that His Love is not only verse 23a, or verse 18b... no, its more:

## The solution

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 3:16-18

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

## The price

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that **he gave his one and only Son**, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

## This is love...

God knew we were going to eat "the apple"..... He knew we would sin... and then you read this verse:

1 John 4:19

We love **because he first loved us**.

John 15:16

You did not choose me, **but I chose you** and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

Romans 5:8-10

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

That's a perfectly balanced love.

- God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners.
- Christ died for us.
- We have now been justified by his blood.
- We shall be saved by him from the wrath of God.
- While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son
- Now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Please, share the whole Gospel and the true God. The “God is only love movement” is an insult to God. He is WAY more than that. And we should bring a balanced gospel, the whole gospel, that includes talking about sin, the consequences of sin, that God send His own son to die for our sins, that Jesus conquered death, and if(!) we believe that, God will forgive and forget.

If we bring a message that is 90% God is love, and the rest well push in the 10% that’s left... it’s a false Gospel. The same goes for if we talk 90% about sin and the consequences, and push the rest in the 10% that’s left... that’s also a false gospel.

### Bring a balanced Gospel

Bring a balanced Gospel so that people hear about the true and biblical God. That is love.

# Attributes of God

<p><b>OMNIPOTENT</b></p> <p>God is all powerful. His power is unlimited. He is able to do anything He wills.</p>	<p><b>OMNISCIENT</b></p> <p>God is all knowing. There is nothing that is unknown to Him.</p>	<p><b>OMNIPRESENT</b></p> <p>God is everywhere. He is in all places, at all times.</p>	<p><b>ETERNAL</b></p> <p>God has no beginning or end. He is self-existent.</p>
<p><b>JUST</b></p> <p>God acts in perfect justice. There is no dishonesty or wrongdoing in Him.</p>	<p><b>GRACIOUS</b></p> <p>In His loving kindness, God gives us things we are undeserving of.</p>	<p><b>MERCIFUL</b></p> <p>God is infinitely compassionate and kind, withholding from us the wrath we deserve.</p>	<p><b>FAITHFUL</b></p> <p>God is unable to be anything other than loyal to His plans and purposes.</p>
<p><b>HOLY</b></p> <p>God is sacred and set apart. He is unlike any other being. He is endlessly, always perfect.</p>	<p><b>IMMUTABLE</b></p> <p>God cannot change in His being, promises and purposes. He is always the same.</p>	<p><b>GOOD</b></p> <p>God is the standard of what is good. All He is and does is good.</p>	<p><b>LOVING</b></p> <p>God is eternally and steadfastly loving and affectionate.</p>
<p><b>SELF-SUFFICIENT</b></p> <p>God has no needs. He is perfectly complete in His own being.</p>	<p><b>SOVEREIGN</b></p> <p>God governs all things. He is Lord over all of creation.</p>	<p><b>RIGHTEOUS</b></p> <p>God is blameless and upright. There is no wrong found in Him.</p>	<p><b>PATIENT</b></p> <p>God willingly withholds His wrath, allowing us time to respond to His grace and mercy.</p>
	<p><b>WISE</b></p> <p>God is truly and infinitely wise, knowing all there is to know, from beginning to end.</p>	<p><b>GLORIOUS</b></p> <p>God is infinitely beautiful and great. His radiance emanates from all the He is and does.</p>	

## Are we there? No we are not...Sadly... part #2

This verse is also abused in another way.. and I don't know whats more false... the "God is love, full stop" false gospel, or.....

## We are God!?

We talk about 1 John 4:16b, and that use of just a part of one verse is already a red flag. But get this, it's getting worse:

### 1 John 4:16c

*Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.*

So, we are not talking about the abuse of verse 16b, but people are even narrowing it down to verse 16c. And, once again, some of them, are building a complete theology on it. How?

This verse is notorious for being abused that we can do all the things God does. People say: "So, if we live in love, God lives in us, so we are God, and we can do all things that God does!"

And that's another false half truth.... It very often goes hand in hand with:

### Philippians 4:13

I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Once again, look at the whole chapter, and the whole book of 1 John.... What's the context?

This whole book (1 John) is all about God's love for us, and how we should love Him and others. And it starts with that He first loved us:

### 1 John 4:19

We love because he first loved us.

It's nowhere near telling us that we can be God and do what He does... It's all about He loves us, so that we can love Him. That's what it's all about. 1 John 4:16c, is a part of 1 John 4:16, which is a part of 1 John 4, which is a part of 1 John.

Only by abiding in God's love can true fellowship with Him be made real. That's the context.

## But what about Philipians 4:13, that says the same! Or does it....?

Let's look at the verses that go before verse 13:

### Philippians 4: 10-13

I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Verse 13 is all about Paul who has learned to be content whatever(!) the circumstances. And for us as humans that's difficult. Sometimes we are in need, we also know what it is to have plenty. But we do have to learn the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

And we can do that, something that is humanly speaking impossible, through Jesus who gives us the strength to do so.

And that's HUGE! So Philippians 4:13 does not tell us that we can be Gods and do what God does, 1 John 4:16 does not tell that either.



God loves us before we were born, we have to love God and do what He is telling us (in all love) to do, so that we can be content in any and every situation, and love other people, even when they don't love us....

Humanly speaking impossible, but with God's love on our side and in us, it is possible. That's what 1 John 4:16c is all about.

## Conclusion

So, no, we are not God, we can not do what God does, and God is not only love. He is way more. And the stunning thing about it all is... although He sees people abusing this verse over and over for their own gain and glory..... He is still patient with us, to repent from that evil abuse of His word. And if we do, He forgives.... That's love, that's grace, that's Godly power.

## What to do today?

If we hear people use John 4:16b or c, be aware. They might be under the influence of a very false gospel and a very false teacher, or are a false teacher themselves. However, it gives us the opportunity to explain what these verses are about, and if they listen: praise God.

### And what if they don't listen?

Talking with people who are deceived might be a tough one, sometimes we even have to mark them, but we must do it. The bible is very clear about it:

### Romans 16:17-18

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences **contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned**; and avoid them.

But be aware and study these verses, so you know what it's all about:

### 2 Timothy 3:16-17

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

And if they don't (want to listen) anyway?

### Matthew 10:12-15

As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet. Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.