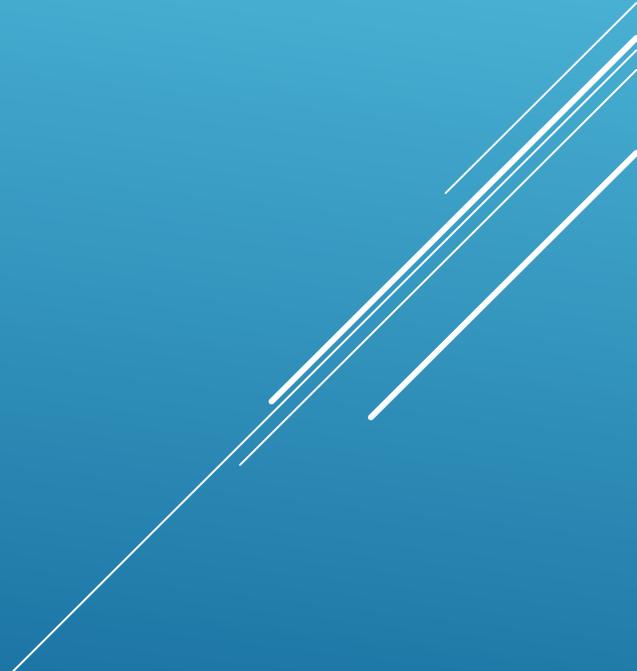




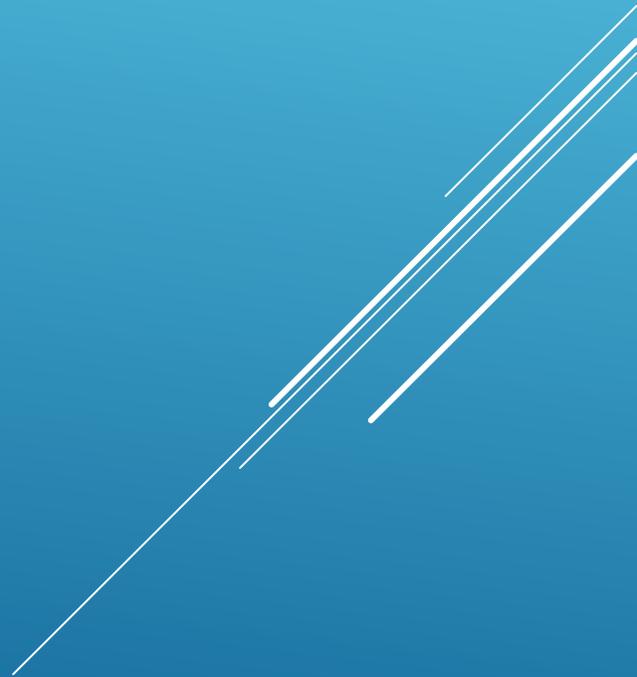
“For fools rush in where  
angels fear to tread”

LOVE

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We will briefly discuss:

- How the world talks of love
  - Few examples of love mentioned in scripture
  - Subjective and Objective love  
(aka – Personal and impersonal)
  - Some definitions of Love in Scripture
  - What it may mean (not an exhaustive study)
    - a) to love the Lord
    - b) to love our neighbor
- 

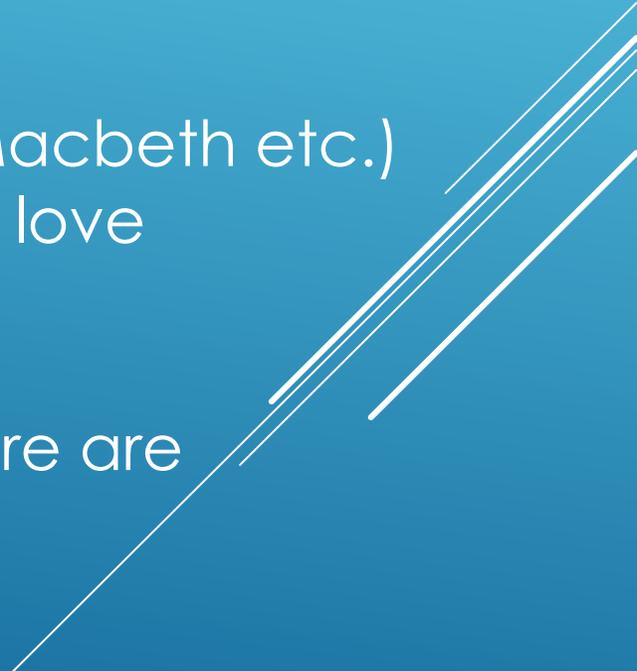






- Built by Shah Jahan in 1632 AD
- In memory of wife Mumtaz
- She died while delivering 14<sup>th</sup> Child
- 20 Years
- 22,000 laborers
- If built today, billions of dollars to build and many more billions to restore stolen pearls and diamonds

- If you ask your loved ones
    - “do you love me” what will they say?
    - Your husband or wife?
    - ?
  - Do we tell our children or dear ones we love them?
  - In the West the word is abused
  - In the East the word was sparsely used ...
    - In the East Love was supposed to be understood from actions!
- 

- The world is full of talk about love
  - Movies -
    - Princes' bride - 'true love and true vengeance'
    - Gone with the wind
    - Fiddler on the roof
  - books -
    - Pride and prejudice
    - Many Shakespeare dramas (Romeo & Juliet, Macbeth etc.)
    - The literature of whole world is filled with talk of love
  - poems -
    - Based on personal preference and interest there are millions of them
- 

Mat 22:34-40

(34) But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together.(35) And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.(36) “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”(37) And he said to him, “**You shall love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.(38) This is the great and first commandment.(39) And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor** as yourself.(40) On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

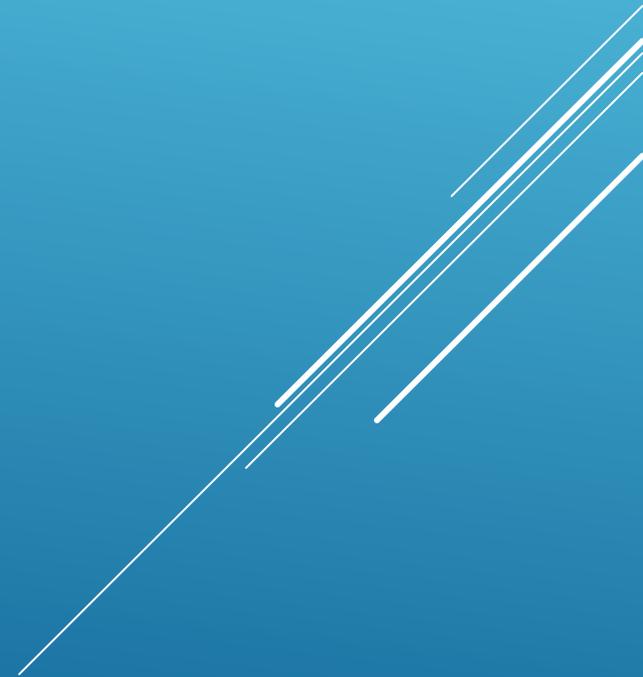
## What is Love?

- Bible also talks about love
  - God says **Abraham Loved Isaac** (Gen 22.2) (fatherly and noble)
  - Jacob loved Joseph (Gen 37:3) Now **Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph** more than any other of his sons, ... (preferential love)
  - Isaac loved Rebekah (Gen 24.67) – ... **and he loved her** – (love after marriage)
  - Jacob Loved Rachel (Gen 29:20) So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days **because of the love he had for her** – (love before marriage).

- Jonathan loved David (1Sa 18:3) Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, **because he loved him** as his own soul. (Brotherly/ Friendship love)
- Shechem loved Dinah (Gen 34:3) And his soul was drawn to Dinah the daughter of Jacob. He **loved the young woman** and spoke tenderly to her. (Lust)
- Amnon loved Tammar (2Sa 13:1) Now Absalom, David's son, had a beautiful sister, whose name was Tamar. And after a time Amnon, David's son, **loved her**. (Incest)
- We love our family – spouse and children dearly and may have many good examples of love

- Bible also talks about God's love and our requirement of loving God and others
- (Jer 31:3) ... **I have loved you with an everlasting love**; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.
- (Deu 6:4-5) "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. **You shall love the LORD your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

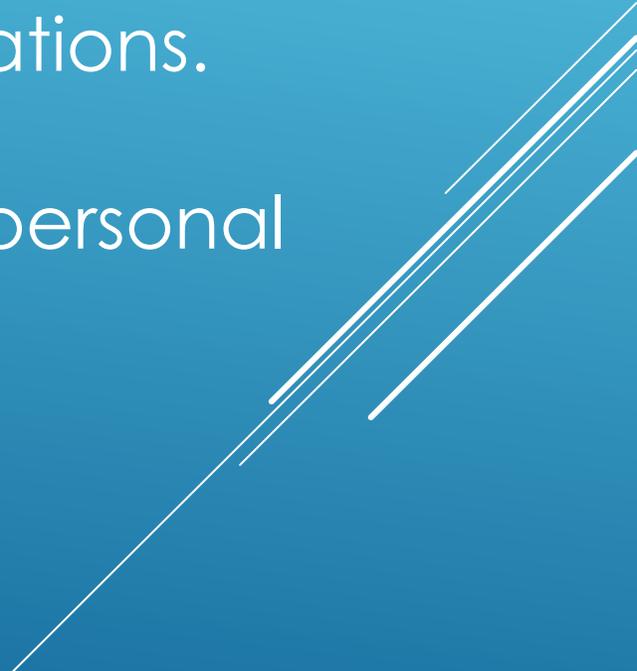
- Humanity desperately seeks out and gives out some sort of “love”
- It is inherent in us for many reasons
  - We may call them many names
    - Passion
    - Affection
    - Compassion
    - Care
    - Friendship
    - Fondness
    - Tenderness
    - Desire
    - Lust



## What is Love?

- Feelings or love?
- All example verses mentioned above were human feelings of various kinds which we also call and can be called love.
- “Though our feelings come and go, God’s love for us does not.”
  - -C.S. Lewis
- “Christ is the humility of God embodied in human nature; the Eternal Love humbling itself, clothing itself in the garb of meekness and gentleness, **to win** and **serve** and **save** us.” -
  - -Andrew Murray

## What **kind** of Love?

- Objective and
  - Subjective love
- 
- Objective = expressing or dealing with facts or conditions as perceived without distortion by personal feelings, prejudices, or interpretations.
  - Subjective = based on or influenced by personal feelings, tastes, or opinions.
- 

- Objective and Subjective
  - Objective love does not require acquaintance, knowledge, intimacy, beauty, etc.
    - We many know the object of love but personal acquaintance is not required
  - God's love towards all humanity is impersonal –out of His goodness, and integrity, He loves all mankind.
    - Psa 145:9 The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.
    - Luk 6:35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

- God's love to all his creation

- Psa 104:24-28 O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. (25) Here is the sea, great and wide, which teems with creatures innumerable, living things both small and great. (26) There go the ships, and Leviathan, which you formed to play in it. (27) **These all look to you, to give them their food in due season.** (28) When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

## What **kind** of Love?

- Subjective love requires us to know the object with some degree of intimacy or acquaintance.
- **God's love towards his chosen ones are personal**
  - Joh 16:27 for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.
  - Joh 14:21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And **he who loves me will be loved by my Father**, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”
- Most of the time when **we use** the word love, it is used in a subjective way.

# COMPARISON

## ► Objective (Impersonal)

- Integrity of the lover
- Towards all
- Unconditional
- No need of personal knowledge
- Virtue independent
- Stable

## ► Subjective (Personal)

- Qualities of the loved one
  - Towards few – limited
  - Conditional
  - Requires personal knowledge
  - Virtue dependent
  - Unstable
- 

## Love in Scripture

### Scripture

- defines,
- demonstrates and
- demands (commands/mandates) us to Love.

### Definition:

- (Exo 34:6) The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God **merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,**
- (1Jn 4:8) Anyone who does not love does not know God, because **God is love.**
- When love is discussed by God, it is associated with character or nature (attribute).

- Demonstration

- (Rom 5:6-8) For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— **but God shows his love** for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- (1Jn 4:10) **This is love**: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning **sacrifice** for our sins.

- Godly Love involves Service and Sacrifice.

- Love Demanded (commanded /mandated).
    - Deu 6:4-5 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. (5) **You shall love the LORD** your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
    - Mat 10:37 **Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me**, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.
    - Lev 19:18 ..., but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself**: I am the LORD.
- 

## How do we love the Lord? - **Some proof tests of Loving God**

- Joh 14:15 “**If you love me**, you will **keep my commandments**. **Obedience**
- Joh 21:17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, **do you love me?**” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.”
- Jesus said to him, “**Feed my sheep**”.
- 1 Joh 3:17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?
- (18) Little children, **let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.**

**Labor**

**Cost**

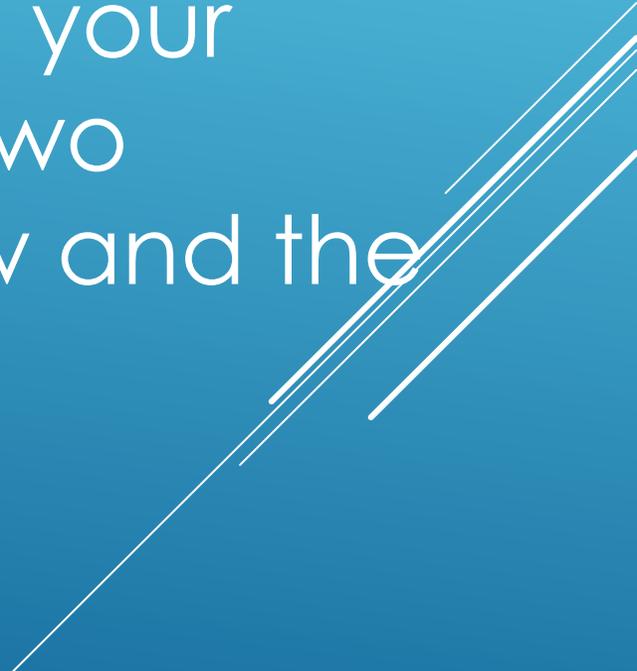
Mat 22:37-39 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with **all your heart** and with **all your soul** and with **all your mind** (and strength – Lk 10.27).

## ▶ **Devoted and Dedicated**

- ▶ We are to love God with all our faculties
- ▶ God must have the first place in a Christians life: focused on God
- ▶ All our being, intellect, emotion and power devoted for Him
- ▶ It is more than just confession of faith
- ▶ We are to demonstrate a total and absolute love for God – and that is through obedience to His word.
- ▶ It is God-centric and God-focused

Mat 22:37-39

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.(40) On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

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## Another **proof test of Love towards “neighbor”**

Luk 10:29-37 But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “**And who is my neighbor?**”

(30) Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. (31) Now by chance **a priest** was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. (32) So likewise **a Levite**, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. (33) But a **Samaritan**, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. (34) He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. (35) And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ (36) **Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?**” (37) He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “**You go, and do likewise.**”

Jas 2:14-17 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? (15) If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, (16) and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? (17) So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

We know love because-

1Jn 4:19 We love because he first loved us.  
What kind of love is this?

- It is not the love of just human feelings
- It is the kind of Love that is generated by Gods regenerating power that has changed our soul
- It is objective and not subject to the merit or virtue of the recipient
- It is the Love of Sacrifice and Service created in us by God.

# EX 20:1-17 TEN COMMANDMENTS, SUMMARIZED

1. You shall have no other Gods before me
2. You shall not make for yourselves an idol
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy
5. Honor your father and your mother
6. You shall not murder
7. You shall not commit adultery
8. You shall not steal`
9. You shall not give false testimony
10. You shall not covet

Commandments 1-4

Love towards God

Personal Love (we know God)

▶ Devoted & Dedicated

Commandments 5-10

Love towards man

Impersonal & Personal Love

(We are to love those whom we know and those we do not)

▶ Service & Sacrifice towards mankind (neighbor)

Scriptural commandments to love, most often, if not all, refers to God's nature and love, imparted by Him in us: Obedience to God and sacrificial service towards all.

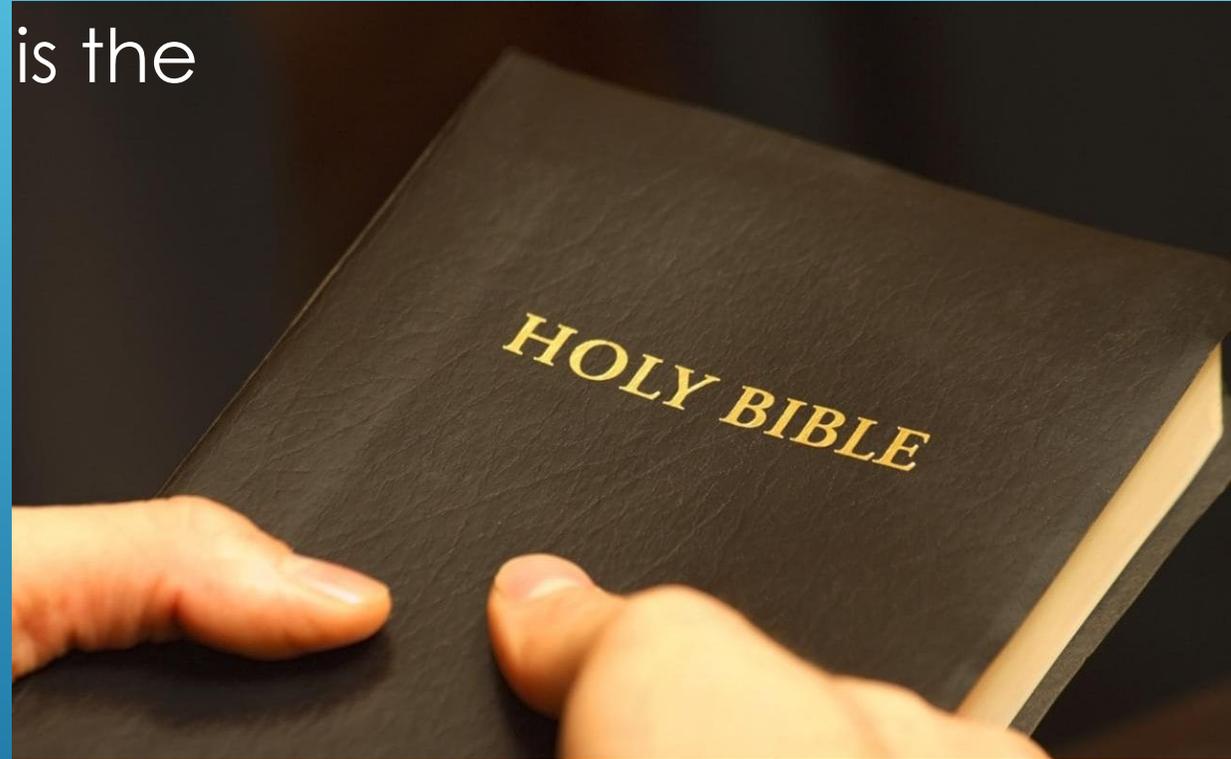
- Joh 14:15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
- Joh 15:12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
- Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,
- Tit 2:4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children,
- Mat 22.39 ... “You shall love your neighbor as yourself”.

## What not to Love?

1 Jn 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. (17) And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.



The greatest story of love ever told is the  
DRAMA of REDEMPTION



The greatest poems ever written  
are about  
the Good Shepherded  
and His Love

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm

*The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.*

*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*He restoreth my soul:  
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:  
for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

*Thou preparest a table before me  
in the presence of mine enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil;  
my cup runneth over.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house  
of the LORD for ever.*

*King James Version*

The greatest symbol of love is  
the  
Cross of our Savior and our Lord



And the greatest of all commandments  
are:

- Love God [devotedly obey Him]
- Love others as ourselves  
[unselfishly serve others]

[ Mt 22.40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.]

