

## **I. Understanding the Love of the Son and the Love of the Father**

**John 15:9** "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

**John 17:23** "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

- A. The love that God the Father and God the Son have for us is the same love that they share within the Godhead.
  - a. It’s the same measure
  - b. It’s the same intensity
- B. Jesus’ word to us, His disciples, is that we are to remain in His love. Once we receive understanding of His love, we are never to leave that revelation. The love of God isn’t something we graduate from.

## **II. Overcoming Key Barriers to Intimacy with God**

### A. Shame

**Ephesians 1:4** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

### B. Performance Mentality

**Jeremiah 31:3** The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.

### C. Orphan Mentality

**1 John 3:1-3** Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

### D. Lack of Understanding

**Ephesians 3:14-19** For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

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**2 Corinthians 5:14** For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;

E. Lack of Priority

**Mark 12:29-31** Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'HEAR, O ISRAEL, THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE. 30 AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' This is the first commandment. 31 And the second, like it, is this: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these."