

Title: Return the gift
Pastor: Paul Kruger
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Time: 19:00



Ezekiel 16:8

⁸ "When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time *was* the time of love; so I spread my wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord GOD.

Leviticus 19:18

¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I *am* the LORD.

Deuteronomy 6:5

⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Agape love:

- deepest form of love
- sacrificial
- accommodating
- patient
- humility
- kind
- forgiving

God's attitude towards His Son:

John 17:25-26

²⁵ O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶ And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare *it*, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.

God's attitude towards the human race:

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so **loved the world** that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Romans 5:8

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were **still sinners**, Christ died for us.

God's attitude towards believers:

John 14:21

²¹ He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.

God's will for us:

John 13:34

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another**; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

God's will for all men:

I Thessalonians 3:12

¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we *do* to you,

God's nature:

I John 4:8

⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

The purpose of this love:

1. To perfect us

Ezekiel 16:14

¹⁴ "Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it *was* perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you," says the Lord GOD.

2. The source for effective partnership

The Father	draws
The Holy Spirit	convicts
Jesus	saves
we	love

"Whom you would change, you must first love". – Martin Luther King Jr.

Jesus – our source

Hebrews 12:2-3

² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

3. So that the world can see Jesus

Ezekiel 16:14

¹⁴ your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it *was* perfect through my splendor which I had bestowed on you,

John 17:22-23

²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.