

## KEEP YOURSELVES IN THE LOVE OF GOD

October 2, 2016 Jude 20-21 by Bob Branch

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**BIG IDEA:** You are loved more than you can ever imagine nor your mind fully comprehend, but it is that love—God’s love—that animates, stabilizes, restores and energizes all who believe. A refresher course on God’s love.

“But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.” **Jude 20-21**

### Personal participation

**Keep an eye on yourself**

**God’s love...**

### 1. Love is God’s essential NATURE. He’s a loving Father.

“God is love.” **1 John 4:16** (4:7-8)

“the Father himself loves you” **John 16:27**

“... we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.” **1 Thessalonians 2:11-12**

### 2. God ACTED in human history because of love.

“God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.” **John 3:16** NIV

### 3. Love is, then, the essential CHARACTER of his family.

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” **John 13:35**

### 4. We are invited to SEE OURSELVES through the eyes of this love, and move within its rhythms in everyday life.

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” **John 21:7** (13:23; 20:2, 20)

**The Lord delights in you!**

“For the LORD takes delight in his people” **Psalms 149:4**

“We know it so well, we’ve embraced it heart and soul, this love that comes from God. God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we’re free of worry on Judgment Day—our standing in the world is identical with Christ’s.” **1 John 4:16–17**  
Message (Rom. 8:38-39)