

**LOVE BREAKS THROUGH**  
**July 30, 2017   1 John 4:16–19   by Bob Branch**

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What is God like? God is \_\_\_\_\_.

*How do you know?*

**BIG IDEA: God loves you, wants you to live in that love and out of that love.**

<sup>16</sup> And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup> This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world **we are like Jesus**. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. **1 John 4:16–19**

**1. Jesus reveals love you can EXPERIENCE and TRUST IN.** <sup>(16)</sup>

“Where is your faith?” **Luke 8:25**

**2. God’s essential nature is revealed in Jesus: He is LOVE.**

“We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen... So spacious is he, so roomy, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding.”

**Colossians 1:15, 19** Message

Look at Jesus, see God himself. “I and the Father are one.” **John 10:30**

**3. We are invited into intermeshing, dynamic INTERCONNECTEDNESS with God and his love.** <sup>(16)</sup>

*Abide from John 15:4-9*

**4. The best version of you LOVES WELL!** Like Jesus. <sup>(17)</sup>

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” **John 13:34–35**

**5. Love CHASES FEAR away. If we are afraid of God, love hasn’t broken through.** <sup>(17-18)</sup>

“So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.” **Romans 8:15** NLT

**6. God always takes the loving INITIATIVE. We love in response to him.** <sup>(19)</sup>

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

**1 John 4:10**

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **Romans 5:8**