



**GOOD NEWS**  
for the unsaved  
WORLD!

(#49)  
God's love for the unsaved.

The modern **modified** "good news" tends to be built on the word "LOVE."

- An **undefined** "love" – People don't understand the Bible's concept of love, so they end up with a false idea.
- A **distorted emphasis** – What the *Bible* defines as the Good News tends to be omitted.
- Often encouraging **thoughtless** "decisions" – Designed for attaining a quick response from people who have no idea what "following Jesus" really means.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."  
Matthew 16:24 (NIV)

**THE BIBLE *never* describes the Good News in terms of "LOVE"!**

**NEVER, NOT EVER; NOWHERE IN ALL THE BIBLE.**

- Instead, the Bible encourages us to carefully think through the *real* issues *before* we make a commitment to follow Jesus.

If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, **he cannot be my disciple.**  
Luke 14:26 (ESV)

So **no one can become my disciple** without giving up everything for me.  
Luke 14:33 (NLT)

**THOSE WHO DEFINE THE "GOOD NEWS" AS LOVE TEND TO DOWNPLAY OR IGNORE THE *REAL* ISSUES.**  
(This turns it into a **false** "good news.")

- ✓ God's holiness, righteousness, justice, mercy, patience, tolerance.
- ✓ People's sin, rebellion; the coming judgment.
- ✓ Our dependency on God for our very existence.
- ✓ Trust, repentance, obedience.
- ✓ The "fear of God."
- ✓ And more.

When referring to the unsaved, many of these concepts have a **much greater emphasis** than this concept of "love."

(LOVE IS **NOT** THE FOCUS OF THE GOOD NEWS.)

**MANY OTHER CONCEPTS HAVE A MUCH GREATER EMPHASIS IN SCRIPTURE.**

**\* SOME EXAMPLES \***

- ✓ Did the "good news" you were taught emphasize *the need to be holy*? ✓ **The BIBLE does!**

But because the God who called you is holy you must be holy in every aspect of your life.  
Scripture says, "Be holy, because I am holy."  
1 Peter 1:15-16 (GW)

- ✓ Did the "good news" you were taught warn you that *you must reject the world and its values*? ✓ **The BIBLE does!**

Don't love the world and what it offers. Those who love the world don't have the Father's love in them.  
1 John 2:15 (GW)

- ✓ Did the "good news" you were taught describe *the terrifying consequences of choosing to continue sinning*? ✓ **The BIBLE does!**

It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God!  
Hebrews 10:31 (ISV)

(This warning was spoken to religious people.)

**The Bible stresses ALL of these... and a rejection of them is considered a *rejection of God's love!***

**EVEN SO: THERE IS A TYPE OF LOVE DIRECTED TOWARD THE UNSAVED!**

★ But it's not the message of the Good News. ★

👉 This type of love:

- **IS NOT:** What people normally think of when they use the word "love."  
(It is more commonly described in terms of kindness, patience and tolerance.)
- **IS NOT:** the special love that God's people experience.  
(Unsaved people don't have the necessary heart-changes that make it possible.)

**HOW IS GOD'S LOVE TOWARD THE UNSAVED SHOWN IN SCRIPTURE?**

( In most cases, the word "LOVE" won't even be present! )

- ✓ It can be seen in what God does.
- ✓ It is temporary, ending at death. (In contrast, God's love for his own people continues forever.)
- ✓ By nature, unsaved people suppress their awareness of this love; they refuse to respond appropriately to it.

... those who in their wickedness suppress the truth.  
... you are reserving wrath for yourself on the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.  
Romans 1:18b; 2:5b (ISV)

① 👉 **This love is demonstrated every time God enables an unsaved person to enjoy the "blessings of life."** (This enjoyment is undeserved.)

"He has shown **kindness** by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy."  
Acts 14:17b (NIV)

He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.  
Matthew 5:45b (NIV)

(Those willing to recognize God's love will want to learn from him.)

The earth is filled with your **love**, O Lord; **teach me** your decrees.  
Psalm 119:64 (NIV)

② 👉 **God's love is seen in his tolerance and patience – he delays the judgment that we deserve... and offers us an opportunity to repent!**

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise [of judgment], as some understand slowness. He is **patient** with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.  
2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

Or do you show contempt for the riches of his **kindness, tolerance** and **patience**, not realizing that God's **kindness** leads you toward repentance?  
... you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.  
Romans 2:4, 5b (NIV)

(This tolerance and patience is an expression of love.)

③ 👉 **God's love is seen in his provision for the salvation of all who are willing to admit their sin and turn from their sinful ways.**

✓ **This love is "as old as sin" – literally!**

God demonstrated it when he didn't immediately send humanity to the lake of fire... but (instead) promised to send someone to "crush the serpent."  
(⇒ This promise looked forward to Jesus' coming.)

"He [⇒ Jesus] will crush your head, and you [⇒ the serpent] will strike his heel."  
Genesis 3:15b (NLT)

✓ **This love was fulfilled when God sent Jesus – to make the Good News possible.**

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, ..."  
John 3:16a (ESV)

**THE RESULT OF GOD'S DEMONSTRATION OF LOVE?  
THE GOOD NEWS BECAME AVAILABLE!**

Because of our sin, we are under God's WRATH. In LOVE, God has offered a way out of this situation. But we must come to God on his terms. We must trust him (v. 16) and be willing to live according to his righteous ways (vs. 19-21).  
Anyone unwilling to do this remains under God's WRATH.  
(See vs. 18 and 36.)

## "LOVE" and the GOOD NEWS

**NO:** "God loves you."

**YES:** "Though you have rejected God's love, he has given you an opportunity to repent."

- ✓ You have suppressed God's love that surrounds you.  
Your sin has put a barrier between you and God. You have earned a well-deserved judgment, and cannot experience the full extent of his love.
- ✓ Until you repent, his love remains outside of you.  
You cannot be filled with the love of God, as long as you refuse to submit to the God of love.

## "LOVE" and the UNSAVED

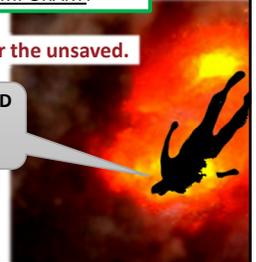
**NO:** "God loves you."

**YES:** "Unless you turn to Jesus, the love of God, which you have experienced and closed your eyes to, is TEMPORARY."

- ✓ In eternity, there is no love for the unsaved.

THEY TOLD ME, "JESUS LOVES YOU AND HAS A WONDERFUL PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE." I BELIEVED THEM.

THEY DIDN'T MENTION THE REQUIREMENTS FOR "FOLLOWING JESUS."



## ★ GOD CAN OFFER YOU A LOVE THAT SURPASSES ANYTHING YOU CAN COMPREHEND... ★

- ✓ But you must surrender.

Until you submit to the God of love, and begin to obey the Good News, the love of God will never fill your life.

But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him.

This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

1 John 2:5-6 (NIV)

**THE GOOD NEWS OF THE BIBLE FOCUSES ON THESE NEEDED CHANGES. (GOD EMPOWERS THOSE WHO TRUST HIM.)**

## ✝️ 🗨️ IF YOU ARE UNSAVED 🗨️ ✝️

- Open your eyes to the love of God that surrounds you! BUT GO FURTHER!

Look to the GOOD NEWS, which tells you what you must do to be saved.

**THEN:** Once you repent and turn to God, you'll be capable of experiencing God's love in ways you were never able to before!

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

1 John 3:1a (NIV)

## HERE IS THIS WEEK'S MISSION!

Learn the GENUINE Good News.

(This alone can change a person's heart.)

Then pray that God's eternal love will become a reality in the life of many!

## Credits

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