

# God Loves You

## Encouragement from God's Desires



WEST SOUND COMMUNITY CHURCH

WINTER 2020

Among the questions often asked about the love of God is, "What are the desires of God?" This is almost always applied personally, as in "Okay, if God really cares for me, then why doesn't he just say what he wants from me?"

They find themselves working feverishly to please everyone in their lives, including God, but achieving little in the way of results.

In the ancient Hebrew scriptures, the Prophet Micah addressed this issue. In the words of his people, he poured out rhetorical questions:

*Micah 6:6-7 "With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"*

It's not as though this question had not been answered over and over. Yet, the Lord was patient...and he answered...

*Micah 6:8 "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"*

*One of Micah's contemporaries said much the same thing.*

*Hosea 6:5-6 "What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away. Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light."*

*Hosea 6:6 "For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings."*

Between 250 and 300 years earlier, before the Hebrew Nation was torn into two competing countries, King David, while asking God for forgiveness, prayed...

*Psalms 51:15-17 "O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."*



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God Loves You: Encouragement from God's Desires

Over the past month, we've seen how the decisions, decrees, and delegations of God literally broadcast how much he loves and cares for us. Today we'll see that his desires also are a testimony to his love and care for us. Think about this for a few moments...

In most circumstances and most discussions, people almost universally believe that we earn God's love by being holy, by doing good, by being good little boys and girls. While, of course, God admires this in us when we achieve it, it's not the primary thing he asks of us....

You see, it's not so much about what we do, but how we engage him in relationship. In Psalm 147:11 we read, *"God delights in those who revere him...in those who hope in his steadfast love."*

In fact, when Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment of all, he answered, (Mark 12:29,30) *"The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' "*

This is the desire of God...a relationship with us based on real love. Everything else proceeds from this miracle.

**Big Idea:** If you'd like eternal encouragement receive the truth about how God's desire reveals his love for us.

**First,** God's desire to know us personally moves him to reconcile our broken relationship.

A. 1 Timothy 2:1-6

even desire your salvation

B. 2 Peter 3:8,9

If God did not love you, would he...

C. John 3:16

D. Romans 5:8

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**Second,** God's desire to know us personally moves him to recuperate our shattered souls.

A. Romans 8:26,27 When we are weak he lovingly helps us.

B. Romans 8:28 When we go through trials he works it out for us.

C. Romans 8:29,30 When we worry about today and the future he has a plan for us.

