

# Sermon Series – “Embracing Identity”

## **Part 3 – “The Meaning of Love”**

**Speaker:** Pastor Delthony L. Gordon **Church:** Beavercreek SDA – 7/08/2023

**Scripture Reading:** 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; **Supporting Text:** 1 John 4:7-12

The world we \_\_\_\_\_ in holds as one of its greatest achievements the ease of access to information, \_\_\_\_\_ at your fingertips. But in the search for the meaning of \_\_\_\_\_, many have found themselves \_\_\_\_\_ in a wilderness of fallen trees and dead \_\_\_\_\_. On another extreme, there are \_\_\_\_\_ of so-called love songs that often portray love as the expression of passion in \_\_\_\_\_ tones, \_\_\_\_\_ many with the \_\_\_\_\_ that it is nothing more than a “*second-hand emotion.*” Today there are placards and memes with the slogan “*love is love*” \_\_\_\_\_ many to believe falsely that love is whatever you want to make it. Unfortunately, people under the delusion of \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_ the guiding principle of love only to be swept away by the raging flood of selfish desires and \_\_\_\_\_. So, with all this misinformation, what really is love? Where can we find it, and what does this have to do with our identity? Let us prayerfully open God’s word as we \_\_\_\_\_ for the answers in its sacred pages.

### **7 Lessons on Love**

1. No \_\_\_\_\_ can truly capture or express its meaning. *1 Cor. 13:1*
2. No \_\_\_\_\_ of personal \_\_\_\_\_ and ability can comprehend it. *1 Cor. 13:2*
3. No amount of \_\_\_\_\_ giving can purchase it. *1 Cor. 13:3*
4. By nature it is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. *1 Cor. 13:4-7*
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ our God is its source, spirit, and embodiment. *1 Jn 4:7-8; John 3:16*
6. Its meaning is found in \_\_\_\_\_ by God’s holy ordinance. *Rom. 13:8-10; Matt. 15:7-9*
7. Its greatest expression is the *thoughtful* giving of one’s \_\_\_\_\_ for others. *Jn 15:11-13*

“God is love.” 1 John 4:16. His nature, His law, is love. It ever has been; it ever will be. “The high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity,” whose “ways are everlasting,” changeth not. With Him “is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” Isaiah 57:15; Habakkuk 3:6; James 1:17. Every manifestation of creative power is an expression of infinite love. Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 33

The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love.

The Great Controversy, p. 678

***May God fill your life with true meaning as you open your heart to His love!***