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**Gospel Glasses**

**No. 4 – Go...to All People...in Love...  
Selected Scriptures**

**No. 4 – In Love**

**As believers in Jesus Christ, we need to let the gospel change the way we see and treat others**

*What do we see about the gospel that instructs us in interacting with others—in the way we view them and treat them?*

● **GO... to ALL People...in LOVE...**

**love**

“Love is love.” (the world)

“God is love.” (1 John 4:8, 16)

*What is love? How do we determine what love is?*

If God is love...

- We can't really understand love unless we understand God (e.g. Exodus 34:6-7)
- We can't really understand God's love unless we understand God in the fullness of how He has revealed Himself in the Bible and through His Son (e.g. Deuteronomy 7:7-8)
- God's word determines what love is (e.g. Hebrews 12:6)

Love is used to describe a range of emotions and actions

God's own love is described in different ways, e.g.

The love of the Father for the Son, and of the Son for the Father.  
God's providential love over all that he has made.  
God's salvific stance toward his fallen world.  
God's particular, effective, selective love toward his elect.  
God's love is sometimes said to be conditioned on obedience.

(Adapted from *The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God*, by D.A. Carson, pp. 16-21)

- God's word describes how we get love wrong (e.g. 1 John 2:15-17)

We love the wrong things or love in the wrong way

We put on a fake show of love or do a lot of good things without love

*What does this mean about the gospel?*

- **God's love in the gospel is a giving of Himself for our good** (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9)
- **God's love in the gospel is a love that was demonstrated on the unlovable** (Romans 5:6-8)
- **God's love in the gospel is merciful and kind** (Ephesians 2:4-7)
- **God's love in the gospel is an effective and enduring love which makes us His own forever** (1 John 3:1-3; cf. Romans 8:31-39)

*What does this mean for us?*

- **Believers are commanded to love God and love their neighbors** (Matthew 22:35-40; Romans 13:8-10)
- **Believers are instructed to love even their enemies and those who do not love them** (Luke 6:27-36)
- **Believers are encouraged to love one another which then demonstrates to others that they belong to God** (John 13:34-35)
- **Believers are compelled by Christ's love to go to others in love** (2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Ephesians 5:2)

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7** Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant<sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;<sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.<sup>7</sup> Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

**1 Corinthians 16:13-14** Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.<sup>14</sup> Let all that you do be done in love.