

The **CORE**  
A Discipleship Tool of FBC, Nowata

***The Core is designed to help you understand what a disciple of Jesus Christ looks like and then learn how to develop those characteristics in your life.***

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“For God So Loved”

This week we want to dig into the underlying theme of the entire Bible - Love. It is one of the virtues we are seeking to plant into our lives as followers of Jesus Christ.

Love has many definitions. According to [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com), *In ordinary use, love usually refers to interpersonal love, an experience felt by a person for another person. Love often involves caring for or identifying with a person or thing, including oneself. Dictionaries tend to define love as deep affection or fondness. In colloquial use, according to polled opinion, the most favored definitions of love involve altruism, selflessness, friendship, union, family, and bonding or connecting with another.*

I would agree with all these but quickly add that there is more to love than feelings. As a song once said - “love is a verb” - it is something you do. In Greek there are several words that can be translated “love” yet they have different meanings. The most common are Agape (noun) agapao (verb), and Philanthropia (noun) Phileo (verb). Agape has the idea of sacrificing love, perfect love, love that has no cause but brings about great effect. Phileo is a more brotherly type of love. It is kindness and affection toward another person for their benefit.

As we think about and search the scriptures to gain understanding of what real love is let us focus first on God’s perfect love. Allow ourselves to go beyond our normal thoughts to see the deeper meaning behind passages that may be familiar. Second we want to think about the proof of God’s love seen in many ways. Lastly we want to focus on how we can practice giving / showing love to God and to those around us. May the Word of God speak to you this week as you spend time with Him! Have a great week!

#### SECTION 1

##### **I. The Perfection of His Love**

Read: Psalm 90:14, Psalm 136;

1. In Psalm 90:14 the writer asks God to “satisfy us... with Your faithful love” (HCSB) How can God’s faithful love satisfy us? What is the intended result of this satisfaction according to the verse?

2. Psalm 136 has a repeating phrase in each verse - “His love endures forever”. How would you use this phrase to explain the perfection of God’s love?

3. Read 1 John 2:5-6 (little John)

The verses say that God’s love is perfected in us as we keep His word. Explain how this might happen.

4. Read I John 3:1-3

This speaks about how great God’s love is. What is the evidence of God’s great love according to verse 1? How does that make you feel?

#### SECTION 2

##### **II. The Proof of His Love**

Read Proverbs 16:6