THAT YOU ARE LOVED BEFORE YOU ARE CHANGED

PRECEPT

1 John 4:9-10

9 God showed how much He loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so
that we might have eternal life through Him.10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but
that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

PRACTICE

1. **Loved.** What does it mean to you personally that God loves you as you are, but loves you too much to leave you unchanged?

2. **Knowing God.** Believing that God loves you unconditionally, how should that change the way you live and treat others?

PROMISE

When we truly understand God's love for us, our relationship with Him is no longer about trying to earn His acceptance. We begin to respond to His love with trust, commitment, and a desire to love Him in return. His love also gives us a secure sense of identity, reminding us that our worth is not defined by past failures or the opinions of others, but by who we are in Him.

When we truly understand God's love and grace, it changes how we treat people. We become more willing to show patience, forgiveness, kindness, and love to others. Ultimately, God's love becomes the foundation of our faith, the source of our identity, and the guiding influence in how we live each day.

In 1 John 4:9–10, we see that God's love is more than just an idea or a feeling. He demonstrated His love by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have life through Him. When we want to understand what God's love truly looks like, we look to Jesus.

Our relationship with God doesn't begin with our effort to reach Him; it begins with God reaching out to us. We don't have to get our lives together before He loves us. His love comes first, and our response flows from the love He has already shown. We don't change to earn His love; we come to Him because He already loves us.

But God's love doesn't mean that sin doesn't matter. Jesus came to deal with the very thing that separates us from God and to bring us into a restored relationship with Him. His love meets us where we are, offers forgiveness, and leads us into a transformed life. He doesn't leave us trapped in our past but allows us to experience a new beginning through Jesus. This is the beauty and power of God's love: it addresses humanity's greatest problem—sin and separation from God—and offers us forgiveness, restoration, and new life through Jesus Christ.

The cross is the clearest picture of God's love; it's where we see the depth of His unconditional love and the sacrifice that makes reconciliation with Him possible. Through Jesus and what He accomplished on the cross, we can experience the purposeful, full, and abundant life that God desires for us. John 15:9–11 says, 9 "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. 10 When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. 11 I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!" So remain in His love, live from the joy He gives, and let His love overflow to the people around us.

PRAYER

I. Worship Service
• Pray that we will all be proactive in inviting our friends and families.

II. Pastors
• May God's favour rest upon them & may they not grow weary in well-doing.

III. Leaders
• Pray for strength for our elders, leaders, and coordinators.

IV. Disciples
• Pray that we will reflect God's love and grace as we obey in making disciples.

V. Members
• Pray for our community to grow in relationship with God.

VI. Unity
• May God's love bind us all, fostering compassion and kindness among us.

VII. Peace
• May the Lord grant us peace, and guide our steps in the way of peace.