

## LOVE KEEPS US TOGETHER.

### What is love and friendship?

- A **survival** mechanism.
- A **feeling**.
- A **conditional** contract: I will always love you... “if” or “so long as...”<sup>1</sup>
- A **reflection** of God’s character.

1 John 4:7-11

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

### How God’s love brings and keeps us together

- Jesus gives us the **source** of love and friendship – 4:7-8 “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God,” and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

## Greek words for love

*Eros*: sexual love.

*Phileo*: warm, non-sexual love among friends.

*Storge*: love between family members.

*Agape*: self-sacrificial love.

- Jesus **offers** us the ultimate love and friendship – 4:9-10 *In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.<sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

Tim Keller: “Religion says ‘I obey therefore I am accepted by God.’ Gospel says, ‘I am accepted by God through Christ therefore I obey.’”

- Jesus helps us stay when we want to walk away from love and friendship – 4:11 *Behold, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

Are you willing to respond positively to Jesus today?

## Next Steps (Connect Card)

- I’m committing my life to Jesus for the first time.
- I’m repenting and renewing my commitment to Jesus.
- I’m interested in being baptized.
- I’m interested in Starting Point.
- I’m interested in Grace Track.

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<sup>1</sup> “According to Aristotle, there are three kinds of friendship: friendships based on usefulness and advantage, those based on pleasure, and those based on goodness and virtue.” J. P. Moreland, *Love Your God With All Your Mind: The Role of Reason in the Life of the Soul*, ed. Dallas Willard (Colorado Springs: Navpress, 1997), 170.