

# Understanding God's Design for Love

## Love Begins With God

Have you ever wondered why love feels so complicated, confusing, or unpredictable? Why some relationships leave you empty while others barely get off the ground? So many of us enter love searching for something we don't fully understand. But what if the real problem isn't a lack of love—but a lack of understanding where love truly begins?

Love becomes clearer the moment you realize it doesn't start with romance, connection, or chemistry. It starts with God Himself. When you begin there, everything else in your life—your identity, your decisions, your relationships—begins transforming from the inside out.

In this post, you will discover what Scripture says about love, how God shapes your heart to love well, and why putting Him first changes everything. You will learn how purity protects your future, how God develops your character, and how to trust Him with timing, desires, and relationships. By the end, you will understand what it truly means to love God's way—and how that changes who you become and who you are drawn to.

Before we step into the biblical foundations of love, I want to share a piece of my own story—because God's transformation in me is part of why I teach this today.

Before I surrendered my life to Jesus, I was in and out of relationships, married several times, and constantly searching for a love I could never seem to find. I thought love was sex, affection, or attention, but what I continually walked into was more pain, manipulation, and abusive behavior. My heart felt empty, tired, and confused. I didn't know how to break the cycle because I didn't yet know the One who is love.

Everything changed after I accepted Jesus. As my heart began to soften, my desires changed too. I submitted to Him fully, and suddenly writing for Him became my joy, my calling, and my worship. Obedience stopped being something I struggled with—it became something I wanted to do. I was still human, still desiring connection and companionship,



and I prayed about it honestly. But this time I prayed from a place of surrender, not desperation.

As God worked on my heart, He also worked on my giving. I tithed not out of obligation but out of love. I gave generously—not like before when I gave out of co-dependency, but now because God was teaching me how to love people rightly. My codependency broke. My identity healed. My heart began to overflow with love, joy, and compassion in ways I had never known.

After I was baptized, I could feel the old me wash away. I became someone who could love others deeply, trust more freely, and walk in confidence instead of fear. I realized that if I couldn't love God and love myself, I would never be able to love another person in a healthy, godly way. Jesus taught me what love truly is—and because of that, I walk differently, trust differently, and love differently. ***Thank You, Jesus!!***

## Understanding God's Design for Love

### Love Begins With God

Have you ever considered that you cannot love another person well until you truly understand God's love for you? Scripture tells us plainly that *"God is love"* 1 John 4:8 (NIV). Love does not begin with a feeling or attraction—it begins with the Father.

When you root your identity in Him, the way you define love begins to shift. *"God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit"* Romans 5:5 (NIV). That means love is not something you manufacture on your own. It's something God grows within you as you walk closely with Him.

As God shapes your heart, He teaches you patience, discernment, and how to give and receive love without fear or insecurity.

### Why Loving God First Changes Everything

Jesus said, *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind"* Matthew 22:37 (ESV). Loving God first isn't limiting—it's liberating. When He is first, everything else aligns.



Putting God first:

- Strengthens your identity
- Guards your heart
- Brings clarity to relationships
- Helps you discern character
- Shapes healthy expectations

When your eyes are fixed on the Father, you stop forcing relationships. You stop settling for less than God's best. You stop chasing what looks good but isn't God.

*You don't learn love by accident. You learn love by staying close to the One who created it.*

## God at the Center of Your Relationships

### A Relationship Shaped Like a Triangle

A godly relationship isn't built by standing side-by-side alone—it's built by moving upward toward God. Imagine a triangle: God at the top, you and the other person at the two bottom corners. As you both move up toward Him, you naturally draw closer to each other.

*"A triple-braided cord is not easily broken."* Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NLT). When God is woven into the center of your relationship, you build something lasting and strong.



## Let God Meet Your Needs First

When you seek God first, your heart softens to His desires, His timing, and His will. He sees your longing for companionship. He sees your desire for connection.

And He provides in His perfect timing.

*“My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus”* Philippians 4:19 (NIV). This includes your emotional, spiritual, and relational needs.

God’s order is beautiful:

- Seek Him first
- Let Him shape your desires
- Let Him choose your timing

*If God is the source of love, then inviting Him into your relationships is not optional—it’s essential.*

## Pursuing Purity in a Culture That Pressures Compromise

### Why Purity Still Matters

In a world where anything goes, purity can feel outdated. But Scripture tells a different story. Purity is protection, not punishment.

*“Flee from sexual immorality”* 1 Corinthians 6:18 (NIV). God is not trying to restrict you—He is trying to shield you from heartbreak, confusion, and spiritual wounds.

Purity:



- Protects your heart
- Keeps your mind clear
- Keeps your relationship centered on God

## **Choosing Obedience Out of Love, Not Fear**

Jesus said, *“If you love me, you will keep my commandments”* John 14:15 (ESV). When you love God, obedience becomes worship, not pressure.

Waiting until marriage isn’t about rules—it’s about trust. It’s about honoring God with your heart and your body so your relationship can flourish, not fracture.

The urge is real. The temptation is real. The struggle is real.

But so is God’s strength.

## **When Flesh Feels Strong, Ask God for Help**

You are not expected to overcome temptation alone. *“Let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves”* Galatians 5:16 (NLT).

When desires rise—pray.

When emotions overwhelm—surrender.

When temptation feels impossible—ask God for strength.

He will help you fight what your flesh wants so you can embrace what your spirit needs.

*Purity is not about perfection. It is about pursuit—turning your heart back toward God again and again.*



# Becoming Someone Who Loves Well

## Let God Shape Your Character First

If you want a relationship that lasts, let God shape you first. Ask Him to develop:

- Patience
- Self-control
- Kindness
- Wisdom
- Emotional maturity
- Christlike humility

*“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” Galatians 5:22–23 (NIV).*

These qualities build a strong, healthy, godly partnership.

## Who You Become Will Determine Who You Attract

You don’t stumble into a godly relationship—you prepare for one with intention. A godly partner looks for someone:

- Surrendered to God
- Emotionally healthy



- Spiritually grounded
- Walking in integrity
- Committed to growth

You become the right person before you meet the right person.

*Healthy love flows out of a healthy relationship with God.*

## Trusting God With Your Timing

### God's Timing Isn't Delayed—It's Designed

Waiting can feel lonely, heavy, or discouraging. But waiting is not punishment—it's preparation.

*"Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart"* Psalm 37:4 (ESV). When you delight in God, your desires begin to align with His heart, and His timing becomes a gift.

God is never late.

Never distracted.

Never withholding good from you.

### Waiting Well Strengthens Your Heart

Waiting deepens your intimacy with God. It strengthens your faith. It prepares you for a relationship built on purpose, not pressure.

*"But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength"* Isaiah 40:31 (NLT). God renews your heart as you wait on Him.

*The right person will not pull you away from God—they will lead you closer to Him.*



## Reflect & Call to Action

Choosing love God's way will always cost something—but it will always give more than it requires. When God shapes your heart, your desires change, your expectations change, and your relationships begin to reflect His design instead of the world's.

Prayerfully consider:

- Is God truly first in my heart and relationships?
- Am I trusting His timing or pushing for my own?
- Where am I struggling with purity, and have I asked God for help?
- What qualities is God shaping in me right now?
- How can I grow into the person I hope to attract?

Bring these questions to God this week. Let Him direct your steps and shape your heart for His best.

## Let Me Pray For You Today

Heavenly Father, thank You for being the origin and definition of true love. Teach us to love You first so we can love others well. Strengthen us where we feel weak, guide us where we feel uncertain, and give us purity, wisdom, and discernment. Shape our desires, steady our steps, and prepare us for relationships that honor You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.





I love you, and God bless

— Jeanette Henninger



**About the Author:**

Jeanette Henninger is the writer behind Revelation Writing — a faith-based blog focused on biblical interpretation, discipleship, and spiritual growth. Her heart is to help believers deepen their understanding of Scripture, grow their faith, and walk closely with God.