

Why Are We Here?
Part 1: To Love God
Matthew 22:34-40

STBC Mission Statement: Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church is a multi-ethnic community connecting people to Christ by loving, growing, serving, and sharing.

What is required to love God?

1. A Feeling: “with all your heart”

➤ Before we can **experience** a love for God, we must first try to grasp His love for us.

Exodus 34:6-7, “*The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.*” (see also Deut. 10:12; Psalm 32:10; Jer. 31:3; John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; Rev. 1:5-6)

1 John 4:9-10, 19 ⁹*This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ... ¹⁹We love because he first loved us.*

2. A Filling: “with all your soul”

Romans 5:5, *God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.*

➤ Yielding our lives to the control of the Holy Spirit and being filled by Him empowers and equips us to express love for God and others. This is accomplished through **worship**.

3. A Following: “with all your mind”

John 14:23-24, ²³*Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”*

➤ The **joy** in our **journey** comes from listening to and obeying Christ.

