Romans 1:16-25 (NKJV)
16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.
17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the just shall live by faith."
18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the **truth** in unrighteousness.
19 because what is known about God is evident within them; for God has shown it to them.
20 For His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

We gain our knowledge of God through subjective experience;
dreams or visions or how you feel, or emotional experience, or intuition

Everyone has mystical experiences, Buddhist, Mormons, seventh-day Adventist, Catholics, pentecostals, Baptist, Assembly of God

The only way we know anything about God, is through divine revelation:

1. through **creation** which is known as **general revelation**
2. **Special revelation** (the incarnation and word of God that was given to the apostles and prophets)

How does the Bible define **love** and **fellowship**?

Love is the character of God

The God of Fellowship

Before **the**
Before **earth was created**
Before **earth, creeping things, beast** of the Earth, and **fish** of the sea
Before **man was created**
Before the **first** sunrise was ordained in the universe
Before the **first** and the **second**
Before the **third** and the **fourth** and the whole seed was in itself
Before **the** sun **and** moon
Before the **fruit** trees of the Earth
Before the **firmament** of the earth's original creation
Before **heaven's** ordination
Before **angelic beings** created

From the mists of eternity past Before **the universe,**
and Before **their being created**

Almighty God

God the Father, God The Son, God The Holy Spirit
There was **fellowship** in the Godhead, eternally.

every component in **fellowship** is **love**

John 14:13 (NKJV)
13 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me; or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

1. The ETERNAL God of love:

Psalm 89:14 (NKJV)
14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.

This is known as **fellowship**

2. **Love** is the divine quality of **truth** interaction between beings:

John 17:26 (NKJV)
26 **...to the Father loved Me** I also have **loved** you, **love** is **love**.

1 John 4:7-8 (NKJV)
7 Beloved, **let us love one another**, for **love** is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
8 He who **does not love** does not know God, for God is love.

John 10:31-38 (NKJV)
31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him.
32 Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father; for which of those works do you stone Me?"
33 The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make yourself a god."
34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, you are gods'?
35 If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),
36 do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You blaspheme,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?
37 If I do not do the works of My Father, believe Me not;
38 but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him."

Matthew 5:44-48 (NKJV)
44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,
45 that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.
46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do even the tax collectors do the same?
47 And if you greet your brethren only, what more do you do than others? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?
48 Therefore you must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 22:36-40 (NKJV)
36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"
37 Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'
38 This is the first and great commandment.
39 And the second, like unto it, is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'
40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Romans 13:8-10 (NKJV)
8 Owe no man anything, except to love one another; for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.
9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all included in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

1 John 4:16 (NKJV)
16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

1 John 4:7 (NKJV)
7 Beloved, **let us love** one another, for **love** is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:8 (NKJV)
8 He who **does not love** does not know God; for God is love.

1 John 4:12 (NKJV)
12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

1 John 4:20 (NKJV)
20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar. For he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

1 John 4:21 (NKJV)
21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

1 John 5:1 (NKJV)
1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves him who begot also loves him who is begotten of him.

1 John 5:2 (NKJV)
2 By this we know that we love the children of God,

when we love God and keep His commandments

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome.

love is the unique mark of the **disciple** and the **fellowship** that the **disciple**

There is a distinction between **disciple** and a believer (*verse 35*)
a believer may not be a disciple

A **disciple** is a student, a person who is putting forth a determinate amount of effort to fully understand everything that the Word of God teaches

1 John 4:8 (NKJV)
8 He who does not **love** does not **know** God; for God is love.

1 John 4:16 (NKJV)
16 And we have known and believed the **love that God has for us God is love**, and he who **abides** in **love abides** in God, and God in him.

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1 John 4:12 (NKJV)
12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His **love** has been perfected in us.

1 John 1:5-7 (NKJV)
5 This then is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.
6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;
7 but if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 4:8 (NKJV)
8 He who does not **love** does not know God; for God is love.

1 John 4:16 (NKJV)
16 And we have known and believed the **love** that God has for us. God is love