Why Love God?
1 John 4:19

Introduction:
A. The ugliest story that can be told is one of unreturned love.
   1. A parent’s unreturned love.
   2. A spouse’s unreturned love.
   3. A friend’s unreturned love
   4. God’s unreturned love.
B. The greatest love story ever told is God’s love for man.
C. John succinctly states the two parts of this great love story (txt)

Discussion:
I. God’s Love for Us.
A. Demonstrated by the creation (Gen. 1:26-27)
   1. Made the earth for us.
   2. Made us in his image.
      a. An eternal spirit/soul
      b. Intelligence
      c. Free will
B. Demonstrated by his daily care for us (Acts 14:15-17; 17:28)
C. Demonstrated by the Scheme of redemption (Gen. 3:15)
   a. From Creation to Abraham
   b. From the call of Abraham until the Redeemer.
   c. The law as a schoolmaster (Gal. 3:23, 24) – prophecies and types.
D. Demonstrated by the incarnation (Phil. 2:6-11)
E. Demonstrated by the crucifixion (Rom. 5:8; Matt. 26:27-50)
   a. The humiliation.
   b. The suffering.

II. Our Love for God.
A. Not in word but in deed (1 John 3:18)
B. By keeping his commandments (1 John 5:3; 2 John 6)
   1. In order to be saved (John 3:16; 2 Pet. 3:9; Rom. 10:10; Mark 16:16).
   2. In order to remain saved (Phil. 2:12)
   3. In order to receive eternal salvation (Heb. 5:8-9)
C. By loving His children (1 John 5:1-2)

Conclusion:
A. We can never repay that great love.
B. We can return that love.
   1. With acts of service to him and his church.
   2. With acts of service to his creation.