

Love is God who dwells in our heart

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Patristic reading

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[Abba Joseph said:] "So highly is the virtue of love extolled that the blessed Apostle John declares that it not only belongs to God but that it is God, saying: "God is love: he therefore that abideth in love, abideth in God, and God in him." (Jn 14:16) For so far do we see that it is divine, that we find that what the Apostle says is plainly a living truth in us: "For the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost Who dwelleth in us." (Rom 5:5) For it is the same thing as if he said that God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost Who dwelleth in us."

St John Cassian, *Conferences* XVI,13