

Understanding God's Love in a Loveless World

Lesson 01 - Does Love Exist?

Why ask the question?

Does Love Exist?

The fact that we ask the question tells us something _____ than meets the eye.

We sense that we were made for something more that truly _____ the craving heart of man.

If there isn't more we are the butt of a cruel evolutionary joke as _____ forces created personal beings with emotions, feelings, and longings for _____ relationships.

The Bible is a _____ story.

The letters "lov" are found in over _____ verses in scripture as love, loving, loved, or beloved.

It is a subject of immense proportion that leads to two additional questions:

1) Why is the world filled with a seeming _____ ?

2) Where do we begin finding a _____ to the dilemma?

Right answers are difficult to find because the world has made it unfashionable to talk about four important keys to finding love in a seemingly loveless world:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Who made it unfashionable to talk about these things?

The story of love begins in Genesis 1. Genesis 1: 26-31; 2:7, 18-25

Important facts #1 & #2: God created man in his _____. God created male & female as sexual beings according to His designed parameters for fulfillment.

God created men and women to enjoy a _____ with their God.

God created men and women to enjoy a _____ with each other in marriage.

All God created He said was _____, and with mankind he said it was _____.

God isn't supposed to exist, yet _____. For man to find love and understand his existence he must come back _____ who designed him.

But why is there so much evil in the world? We move to facts 3 & 4 denied by the world.

There is an enemy _____ into the world.

Evil is the result of _____ against God. We live in a fallen world.

The Fall of Man - Genesis 3: 1-7

Man made a _____ to disobey God resulting in separation from God.

As a result, _____ entered the human race.

God says evil entered the world as a result of _____.

The naturalist (or evolutionist) says evil is a part of man's _____ as he evolves he will put it all behind him. History proves otherwise. When God and foundations of biblical truth are taken out of society man _____; he does not _____.

New-age pantheism and oriental philosophies of Buddhism and Hinduism claim these things really don't _____. They are all _____.

The animist says it is the result of _____ that if you correctly appease them, it will go away.

The postmodernist says it doesn't really matter what we believe.

We are all right as long as no one claims there is _____.

Militant atheism was the fertile soil from which Nazism and Communism arose – beliefs that erected statues to men who murdered millions of their own citizens.

The Paradox:

Many think taking _____, evil in the world will right itself; it is man taking _____ that causes evil to spread. _____ whether we believe God or not.

Love never finds its proper place until God is recognized as _____ in the universe.

To find love, we must correctly name _____ for what it is; the main reason for suffering is the _____.

Genesis 3:8-15 – the solution lays in returning to the God we rebelled from.

God began a _____ and brings us a promise of victory. Something we cannot explain is that God knew ahead of time that man would fail, and in the process of eternity past, God ordained Christ to the cross of Calvary as the loving remedy to the problem.

In the book of Revelation God gives a glance at the end of the story, to show us that love is possible in a loveless world. Two major characteristics of love are:

Revelation 1:5 shows us His _____

He did it because of love, he made us clean, He did it by His blood.

Revelation 21:1-6 shows us His _____

Revelation ends with the triumph of _____ with the one who loved us and washed us from our sins. We who have received His love are received into eternal peace and joy – vs. 4.

Invitations to a weary world:

“For God so _____ the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” – John 3:16

“Come unto me all you that are _____ and I will give you _____.” – Matt. 11:28

“Casting all your _____.” – 1 Peter 5:7

Napoleon Bonaparte: *“I know men; and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between Him and every person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded His empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for him.”*