

Reaching New Heights in our Knowledge of God The Love of God

The Holiness of God
The Faithfulness of God
The Sovereignty of God
The Presence of God

Isaiah – Isaiah 6:8 – *Here am I Lord, send me.*

Paul - 1 Corinthians 1:9 - *God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Mordecai - Esther 4:14 – *And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?*

King David – Psalm 23:4 - *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

6 ways to think about God's love for us:

I. The Centrality of God's Love

A. Clearly stated in this passage

I John 4:8 – *God is love.*

B. Defined by John's use of a word which at the time was relatively uncommon

Donald Burdick explains that this kind of love has 3 components:

1. It is spontaneous
2. It is self-giving
3. It is active

C. This is not all that could/should be said of God

I John 1:5 – *God is light...*

D. It is not theologically accurate to say that "the New Testament God is a God of love while the Old Testament God is a God of something else."

Psalm 136:1 - *Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.*

Hebrews 10:31 - *It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

Romans 11:22 - *Behold then the kindness and severity of God...*

II. The Manifestation of God's Love

A. God sent His Son

1 John 3:17-18 - *But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.*

B. To be the propitiation for our sins

1 John 4:10 - *...He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

III. The Objections to God's Love

A. If God was a God of love, He wouldn't allow trials

Hebrews 12:6 – *For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives.*

B. If God was a God of love, He would not send people to hell

Ezekiel 33:11 - *Say to them, "As I live!" declares the Lord God, "I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live..."*

John MacArthur said it this way in his book on this subject..."Love surely tempers even God's judgments. What a wonder it is that He who is a consuming fire, He who is unapproachable light, is also the personification of love! He postpones His judgments against sin while pleading with sinners to repent. He freely offers mercy to all who will repent. He shows lovingkindness and goodness even to many who steel their hearts against Him. Divine love not only keeps divine wrath in check while God appeals to the sinner—but it also proves that God is just when He finally condemns.

IV. The Purpose of God's Love

Ephesians 5:25-27 - *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.*

V. The Response to the Love of God

A. Learn to abide in God and His love

1 John 4:16 - *God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.*

B. Learn to love others

Galatians 5:13 - *For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

VI. The Power of God's Love

1 John 4:9 - *By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.*