

Old Union Missionary Baptist Ministers School

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“Redeeming Love”

By

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Lesson Scripture: (1 John 4:7-10) I want to begin with two statements from this lesson. The first statement is in verse seven; and says, “**...Love is of God**”; meaning, “**Love as we know it**” originated with God; even in human nature there are different kinds of love. When God created mankind, he gave to him the capacity, and the ability to experience love; **the intense feelings of deep affection**; as part of the human nature. Hence we have, romantic love, (attraction to the opposite gender) conjugal love, (relating to the marriage relationship) family love, (for parents, children, and siblings), and brotherly love, (compassion toward fellow human beings) and also friendship love. I want to express again, “**Love is of God**” and he wants us to love and be loved.

The second statement is in verse eight, and carries even more weight; “**...God is love.**” meaning, “**God’s nature is love**”. The Scripture does not say, “**love is God**”! It say, “**God is Love!**” And the two terms are not interchangeable!

Now there is a special relationship with God for those who have experienced being born again; born from above. The Scripture says, “But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. and, because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father..” (Gal. 4:4-6) At this same time, simultaneously, “Being justified (given a forgiven standing) by faith we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ,...” **“because”, the Love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, which is given unto us.**” (Romans 5:1-5) (Faith in this verse is not only mental assent to the gospel, but **faith** that is total **trust and dependance in Jesus**)

In this experience, we are “...made partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” (2 Pet. 1:4) This is not the natural love that everyone has, but this is Divine Love, Agape love, that enables us to Know God as our Father, and, to Love God.

The apostle Paul speaks of, the enormity of Gods Love. In his prayer for the saints at Ephesus, he prayed “...that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height: and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God”. (Eph. 3:17-19)

With Intellectual perception or head knowledge: (that which is learned by study or by hearing): a person can know everything the Bible says about Christ and his love, and still not have an ounce of the love of God and Jesus Christ in his heart.

And, no doubt there are lots of people who as far as intellectual knowledge, is concerned, know as much about the Bible and what it says as we do.

But we who are saved have the knowledge of God that goes beyond that which we read about.

Paul writes, "...Unto Him that Loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood". We have experienced, "...The washing of regeneration, (the Cleansing) and the renewing of the Holy Ghost". (Tit. 3:5) This refers to the presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, and "If any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his." (Romans 8:9)

"WE LOVE HIM BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US". (1 Jn. 4:19)

When did God's love for us begin? Well, His love did not begin. Because God is love, He has always loved mankind. The question is asked, "What is man? When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man that thou art mindful of him,... that thou visitest him? (Psalms 8:3-4) That question is repeated in Hebrews; and man is described as being crowned with Glory and Honor, and set over the works of God's hands, He was given dominion over everything, and he left nothing that was not put under him. **Yet, there is one thing man can't control:** Death! But, we see Jesus,... who by the grace of God tasted Death for every man. (Hebrews 2:6-19)

Here we have "Grace" and "Mercy" introduced; The undeserved **"mercy and favor of God"**. Where did mercy come from? Paul answers that for us. He said, "But God, who is rich in mercy, (Compassion and forgiveness toward someone, when punishment is deserved, and would have been just) for his great love wherewith he loved us,... For by grace ye are saved". (Eph. 2:4-5)

The "Manner" and the "Method"

The Apostle John, invited us to behold, **"the manner of Love"**, the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called, **"The Sons of God"**. The word manner has reference not only to the quality of the Love, but also to the way the love was manifested. Perhaps the word **method** would also be appropriate in helping us get a little better insight into the **"...love of Christ, which passeth knowledge,..."**. Verse two says, **"Now"**, meaning, right now, this very moment; if you have been born again, you are a **"Child of God"** **"It doth not yet appear what we shall be;"** **But we know, what we are now. THE CHILDREN OF GOD!** Without waiting for the **"Second Coming"**. But we know, when he shall appear, we shall be like him for we shall see him as he is.

But God, commended, his love toward us, (Sent His "own" love in our direction) in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8) He didn't love us because of his grace. He favored us, because of his love. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) and here is more proof of that statement;

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:10)

Our Helpless Condition

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (Romans 5:12)

"For when we were in the flesh, (before we were saved.) the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death." (Romans 7:5) "For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am carnal, **SOLD UNDER SIN."**

"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: (Trying to obtain righteousness by good works) For it is written, Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things that are written in the book of the law to do them". (Galatians 3:10)

Christ kept the Law, every **"jot"** (smallest part) and every **"tittle"**. A hook like mark, stroke, or point by which one letter differs from another in the Hebrew Alphabet. (Mt. 5:18)

So, Adam sold out to the devil, not only sold himself, but his posterity. (Rom. 5:12, Rom. 7:14)
It was necessary that we be redeemed, (bought back) So, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree;" (Galatians 3:13)

Redeemer - One who Pays the ransom price to secure the release of a Captive.

Redeemed - Those who have been set free from the bondage of sin. Paul says "Who (Jesus) hath delivered us from the power of darkness;..." "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:" (Colossian 1:13-14) "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. (Romans 6:14)

The Ransom - Jesus came to give his life a ransom for many! (Mt. 20:28) Notice that does not say for some; but many. If you have any doubt about how many that is, "There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave **himself a ransom** for all, to be testified in due time." (1 Timothy 2:5-6) The ransom was **HIMSELF!**

Notice some statements in Colossians 1:19-22" V.19, **"It pleased the Father"** V. 20, **"Having made peace through the blood of his cross"** V21 **"And you who were alienated and enemies,... now hath he reconciled"**, V. 22, **"In the body of his flesh through death"**.

John introduced Jesus as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. (Jn 1:29) "And ye Know he was manifested to take away our sins..." (1 Jn 3:5)

"Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priest unto God his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever, Amen!

(Revelations 1:5-6)