

Character and Attributes of God –Love

November 24, 2019

God's Love

Definitions

- *God's love means that God eternally gives of himself to others. -Grudem*
- *[God's] self-giving affection for his image-bearing creatures and his unselfish concern for their well-being, that leads him to act on their behalf and for their happiness and welfare." -Jack Cottrell*
- *"God's perfect love is his determination to give of himself to himself and to others and is his affection for himself and his people." -MacArthur and Mayhew*

Biblical Support for God's Love

- **God is Love.** 1 John 4:8; 1 John 4:16
- **God's Love within the Godhead.**
 - **The Father loves the Son-** Matthew 3:16-17, Matthew 17:5 John 3:35. John 5:20, John 10:17 John 17:24 and 26, Colossians 1:13.
 - **The Son loves the Father.** John 14:31, "
 - **The Spirit loves and is loved by the Father and the Son.** All 3 members are all equally divine and in union with each other. This is a necessity within the Godhead, who is perfect in love – equally giving of each other to each other.
- **God's Universal Love.** 5:44-45, 48
 - **God sending the Son is God's love to the entire world.** John 3; John 4:42; 1 John 4:14
 - **Not universal salvation.** John 3:18; John 17:9
 - **God loved nation of Israel.** Deuteronomy 7:7-8; Psalm 44:3; Jeremiah 31:3, Hosea 11:1 and Malachi 1:2; Isaiah 43:4; 48:14; 63:9; and Zephaniah 3:17. There was only a remnant of believers, yet God set his affection upon the entire nation.
 - **God has love for New Testament unbelievers.** Acts 14:17:26-30. Romans 2:4.
 - **This love is designed to lead to repentance.** 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; Romans 5:8
- **God's Saving Love.**
 - **God's love is uninfluenced.** Deuteronomy 7:7-8; 2 Timothy 1:9; Ephesians 2:4-5
 - **God's love is sovereign.** 1 John 4:9-11; Romans 9:13; Eph1:3-6
 - **God's love is a sacrificial.** Galatians 2:20; John 15:12-13; Revelation 1:5-6

Application

For unbelievers.

Gospel Belief. God's love is his goodness in action. His love for you is to lead you to faith in Christ as your only righteousness and repentance of sin against a holy God.

For believers.

Comfort in affliction. T1John 3:1-2; Ephesians 3:17-19; John; 16:27; 17:23; Romans 8:35-39, "*Who shall separate us from the **love** of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? (36) As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." (37) No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who **loved** us. (38) For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, (39) nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the **love** of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*"

Motivation to love others. Ephesians 5:1-2; Ephesians 5:25; John 14:21; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Hebrews 10:24-25; Romans 13:10; 1 Corinthians chapter 13

Jesus is the source and example of biblical self-sacrificing love.

John 13:34-35, "*A new commandment I give to you, that you **love** one another: just as I have **loved** you, you also are to **love** one another. (35) By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have **love** for one another.*"

Philippians 2:1-11, "*So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, (2) complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. (3) Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. (4) Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (5) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, (6) who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (8) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (9) Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, (10) so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (11) and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*"

Verse 12 tells us in light of this, "*work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*"