

Love of God

- I. Introduction:
 - a. What is love?
 - i. “**a**: Unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another: as (1) : the fatherly concern of God for humankind (2) : brotherly concern for others **b** : a person's adoration of God”
(**Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary**)
 - b. True love is not emotion – Emotion is a motivator to practice true love
 - i. True love is in what you do and not in what you feel or say
 - 1. (**1 John 3:18**) “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”
 - c. God is the source of love
 - i. (**1 John 4:7-8**) “Beloved, let us love one another: for **love is of God**; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for **God is love**.”
 - ii. (**1 John 4:16**) “And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. **God is love**; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.”
 - d. Love is not just an attribute of God but the center of His Character – God is Love
 - i. God does not merely love, but God IS love
 - ii. All other attributes of Divine nature stem from this center characteristic
 - 1. (**Deut 4:24; 6:15**) – God is a jealous God – Why? Because of His love
 - 2. (**Deut 4:31**) – God is a merciful God which will not forsake His people – Why? Because of His love
 - 3. (**Deut 7:9**) – God is faithful – Why? Because of His love
 - 4. (**Psalms 86:5**) – God is good, ready to forgive, plenteous in mercy to all that call upon Him – Why? Because of His love
 - 5. (**Psalms 86:15**) – God is full of compassion, gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth – Why? Because of His love
 - e. Let us look at the Love of God and its work, and then let us look at our love towards Him.
- II. Love of God is a love that:
 - a. Was willing to sacrifice
 - i. From the viewpoint of the Father
 - 1. Was willing to send His Son
 - a. (**John 3:16**) “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.”

- b. **(1 John 4:10)** “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”
 - c. **(Rom 8:32)** “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”
 - ii. From the viewpoint of the Son
 - 1. Was willing to die
 - a. Came to dwell with us: Immanuel – God with Us
 - i. **(Matt 1:23)** “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”
 - ii. **(John 1:1-2)** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.”
 - iii. **(John 1:14)** “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”
 - iv. God came to dwell with us for a short time so that we can live with him for eternity
 - b. Willing to die for His friends
 - i. **(John 15:13-14)** “Greater love hath no man than this; that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.”
 - b. Was willing to Love us before we Loved Him
 - i. **(1 John 4:19)** “We love him, because he first loved us.”
 - ii. **(Rom 5:8-9)** “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”
 - c. Was shown by His works toward us
 - i. **(Rom 5:10)** “For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”
 - ii. We were enemies of God – sinners
 - 1. Worthy of death
 - a. **(Rom 6:23)** “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
 - 2. Knew the condition of man – could’ve allowed us to receive what we deserve!
 - iii. “Being reconciled” – “Saved by his life”

1. He done so much while in state of 'weakness'. He could surely do save us now in his exalted state.
 - a. **(Heb 7:25)** "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."
- III. Love that we must have toward God is:
- a. Willing, also, to sacrifice
 - i. We no longer sacrifice bulls and goats
 1. **(Heb 10:4)** "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins."
 2. Christ was the sacrifice that took away our sins
 - a. **(John 1:29)** "...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."
 - b. **(Heb 10:10)** "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."
 - ii. We sacrifice our bodies as living sacrifices
 1. **(Rom 12:1)** "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."
 2. Sacrifice in our worship to God
 - a. **(Ps 69:30-31)** "I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. This also shall please the Lord better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs."
 3. Sacrifice in our service to God
 - a. **(Heb 13:15-16)** "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."
 4. Sacrificed not for sin but to be dead to sin
 - a. **(Gal 5:24)** "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."
 - b. Willing to submit to His will above all else
 - i. Will do away with idolatry
 1. **(Ex 20:3)** "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."
 2. Worldliness
 - a. **(1 John 2:15)** "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."
 - ii. Will not love other more than Him
 1. **(Deut 6:4-5)** "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

2. (**Matt 10:37-39**) “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.”
- c. Shown by our works toward Him
- i. Obedience to the commandments of God
 1. (**1 John 2:3-5**) “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.”
 2. (**1 John 5:3**) “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”
 3. (**John 14:21-23**) “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him... . . . If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”
 - ii. Service toward others
 1. (**Matt 25:40**) “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it **unto me.**”
 - a. If you love God – you will serve Him by serving others
 2. “There was a barber who one week noticed that there was a good increase in his business. When he tried to find out why, he discovered that his competitor, another barber in the village, was ill. When the week ended, he took all that he had made above his average earnings and carried it to his competitor with his Christian love and sympathy.”
 - iii. Teaching of the Gospel – Love for the Souls of Men
 1. Our duty to teach:
 - a. (**Matt 28:19-20**) “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
 - i. Command was ‘Go’
 - b. (**1 Cor 9:16**) “For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!”
 - i. Paul said ‘woe’ – Exclamation of grief

- c. Jesus said 'Go' and Paul said 'Woe'! It's either 'go' or 'woe'!
 - 2. Our desire to teach the truth – for the love of souls
 - a. **(Matt 22:39)** “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”
 - b. Love of our neighbor as ourselves – imagine if your neighbor had important information that could save your life – would you want him or her to share it? – Why do we feel less urgency to tell them the truth about their souls?
- iv. Love toward the brethren
 - 1. **(1 John 4:11)** “Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.”
 - 2. If we love Christ, we must love our brethren **(Eph 5:30)** “For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.”
 - 3. **(John 13:34-35)** “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”
 - a. Love toward one another is the proof of Christianity for all of mankind
 - 4. Our love for one another is a display of God’s Love toward us
 - a. God showed the greatest of all love when He sent His Son and His Son showed the greatest of all love when He was willing to go to the cross of Calvary.
 - i. Why Paul taught: “But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.” **(1 Thess 4:9)**
 - b. Our love toward one another and mankind is a testimony for the love of God – Gives God the glory

IV. Conclusion:

- a. Do you really love God?
 - i. **(John 14:21-23)** “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him... .. If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”
- b. Accept God’s love today and begin to truly Love God!
 - i. Be obedient to His commands
 - ii. The first step is to become His child. – How?
 - 1. **(John 1:12-13)** “But as many as received him, to them gave he **power to become the sons of God**, even to them

that **believe on his name**: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

2. **(Rom 1:16)** “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
 - a. “To everyone that believeth it is the power of God unto salvation”

iii. The Gospel of Christ holds the power to salvation

1. The Gospel was preached on the day of Pentecost
 - a. Death, burial, and resurrection of Christ
2. **(Acts 2:38)** “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
3. **(Acts 2:40-41)** “And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”
4. **(Acts 2:47)** “And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”