

THE LOVE OF GOD

1 John 4:6-11

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss what the Bible teaches about the Love of God for all of us.
2. 1 Jn. 4:8 "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."
 - a. The main characteristic of God is "Love".
 - b. Love of God - the central fact and theme of the Bible.
 - c. But there is also the wrath of God - Rom. 11:22 "the goodness and severity of God"
 - i. Wrath - severity
 - ii. Goodness of God - for those who continue in His goodness
 - d. But Love is the Sum of his moral nature
 - e. He does not say that love is God but he does say that God is love.
3. Rom. 8:38 - 39 "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
4. Love is unique to Christianity
 - a. No other religious system in the world teaches this.
 - b. The Moslems, Shintos, Hindus, Buddhists, Paganism - have no teaching close to this.
 - c. Love is one of the attributes of God which we need to understand.
5. We will discuss:
 - a. Who Does God Love
 - b. Description of God's Love
 - c. God is Love

Discussion

I. WHO DOES GOD LOVE ?

A. All the World

1. After creating all things and then making Man in His own image he said: "It was very good." Gen. 1:31
2. He prepared a garden for them - and He continues to bless even after sin corrupted his creation. **Ps. 65:9-13**
3. Matt. 5:45 "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

B. God loves us so much he has provided redemption

1. **John 3:16**
2. Rom. 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
3. 1 John 4:9 "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."

C. God has a special love for His Chosen People

1. Most of the O.T. deals with God's special relationship with Israel, the chosen.
2. God chose this nation to bring a redeemer for all the world.
3. He delivered them out of Egypt and established them as a nation. Many times He made it clear to them that he loved them:

- a. Ex. 19:5 "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth [is] mine."
 - b. Deut. 7:7-8 "The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye [were] the fewest of all people: 8 But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt."
 - c. Deut. 7:13 "And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee."
4. The prophets pronounced the Love of God for his special chosen people
- a. Isa. 43:4 "Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life."
 - b. Jer. 31:3 "The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, [saying], Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."

D. The Types of People within Israel whom God Loved

1. He chose Israel and set them apart from all nations and loved them in a special way. Within Israel there were certain ones that God loved in even a more special way.
2. These are the ones who try to please Him and conform to His will:
 - a. Ps. 11:7 "For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright."
 - b. Pro. 8:17 "I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me."
 - c. Pro. 15:9 "The way of the wicked [is] an abomination unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness."
 - d. Ps. 32:10 "Many sorrows [shall be] to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about."
 - e. Ps. 147:11 "The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy."

E. GOD LOVES THE CHURCH TODAY - New Testament

1. The chosen people of God today are the ones who make up the Church. The church has replaced Israel as the chosen people by the eternal purpose of God.
2. Just as Israel was chosen as a nation in the beloved Abraham, so the Church is chosen as a people in the beloved Christ.
 - a. 1 Pet. 2:9 "But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"

- b. The phrase "A peculiar people" is translated in the NKJV in this way:
 "His own special people."
3. The church is loved by God:
- a. John 14:21 "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."
- b. John 14:23 "Jesus answered and said unto 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."
4. Our Love is always a response to God's love
- a. 1 John 4:19 "We love him, because he first loved us."
- (1) He loved us first to show us the value of love.
 - (2) And to give us an example of how to love.
 - (3) Man unaided by the teaching and example of God would not know how to love in the highest sense of that term.
- b. When we have responded to that love, we enter a greater relationship with God that is better than what we had before.
- (1) God loves us as sinners - he provided salvation through Christ
 - (2) But when we obey, He loves us even more as His children.
 - (3) 1 John 3:1 "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."
 - (4) We are now loved as Children adopted into God's own family.

F. God Loves everyone

1. He gives us all life, and blesses us with good gifts,
 - a. God loves all and blesses all in these earthly blessings we enjoy - the air, water, food, many material things we enjoy on this earth
 - b. But God has a special love for the Chosen
2. God loves the obedient the most

II. DESCRIPTION OF GOD'S LOVE

A. It is always intelligent

1. Sometimes we are moved by blind passion or silly infatuation.
2. God's infinite wisdom governs His love and that love therefore always works for our best interests.

B. It is impartial Love

1. It makes no difference who we are God's love is extended to us.
2. Rom. 2:11 "For there is no respect of persons with God."
3. God does not show favoritism.

C. It is an active love:

1. He sent His Son to die for us
 - a. 1 Jn. 4:9-10 "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 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." Atonement

- b. This is where God's love is shown to be the greatest possible love.
 - c. John 15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."
2. When we obey Christ we are adopted into his family - 1 Jn. 3:1 "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."
 3. We have repeated forgiveness - 1 Jn. 1:7-10
 4. Providence of God - Rom. 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose."
 5. The chastening of God is an expression of his love -
 - a. Heb. 12:6 "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."
 - b. From God's experience with Israel we learn that love sometimes must act with apparent harshness.
 - c. There are times when the only way sinners can be helped is through chastisement.
 - d. When the welfare of the beloved is at stake, God's love does not hesitate to chastise.
 - e. Pro. 3:11-12 "My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: 12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son [in whom] he delighteth."

6. Eternal home -

- a. The reward for faithful service comes from God's Love -
- b. Jn. 14:2,3 "In my Father's house are many mansions: if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also."
- c. God's love is like a circle, A circle big and round. And when you see a circle no ending can be found. That's how it is with God's love, Goes on Eternally, Forever and forever more, I know that God loves me.

III. GOD IS LOVE - 1 John 4:8 "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

- A. If it were not for God, the idea which we have regarding love would not and could not exist.
- B. God is the very essence of love. That which he did for sinful humanity is the greatest manifestation of love which is known to man.
- C. Christian love is the highest and greatest demonstration of love of which the human race is capable.
 - 1. Christ teaches us that we are to love all men
 - 2. We are to even love our enemies
 - 3. And we are especially to love our brethren.
 - 4. We are taught to love our neighbor as ourselves - Rom. 13:8-10
 - 5. If we love one another God dwelleth in us.

CONCLUSION

1. Love is the mightiest power in the heaven above or in the earth beneath.
2. Love may be compared to the force of gravity. Remove the influence of gravity and chaos will be the result. Remove love and society will be in a terrible mess!!
3. God is love. **"for God is love."** 1 John 4:8
4. He loved all of us. His love is shown to us in many ways. And we show our love back to Him by being obedient to His will and living a life of love.
5. We become Godlike when we love all that God loves.

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Morning - Feb. 14, 2010
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