

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17 & 1 John 4:7-20 Series: *Knowing God #9*
Singing: 134:1-3 – 435:9 – 187:1-4 – 304:1-3 – 399:1-2

The God of Love

I. God is the Source of Love II. God's revelation of Love

I. God is the source of love:

A. Observe John's logic: vs. 19-21

1. We can know we love Him: *how?*

2. Our claim to love Him while we hate a brother is hypocrisy (21; 3:13-15)

B. Our love is the *stream*: God is the source (vs. 8 & 19b)

1. Love is the *noblest affection* (Gal. 5:22) – *greatest power* (Rom. 1:16)

2. Where does all such love come from?

a. the world has no answer

b. God's Word's answer: *God is Love*

C. God is love: refers to His existence

1. God's existence as Love is eternal (Acts 17:24-25)

2. *God is love* are simple words with boundless dimensions (Eph. 3:18-19)

a. Love is God's central perfection – center of His infinite Being

● *Love is God's central perfection around which all the others resolve as planets around the sun (O. Winslow)*

b. All God's moral attributes are as rays of His love

- omnipotence
- omniscience
- omnipresence
- holiness
- justice
- anger
- wisdom
- truth
- longsuffering

D. What does this truth about God do to you?

II. The revelation of God's Love

A. The glory of God's love is seen in His deeds (works)

1. God loves His Jesus Christ, His Son: Prov. 8:30 & Is. 42:1; John 1:1
 - *Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him. (Prov. 8:30)*
 - *Behold, my Servant ... mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth (Is. 42:1)*
 - *The Father loveth the Son (John 3:35; John 5:20)*
2. God loves His creation and cares for it daily: Ps. 145:9
 - *The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works*
 - *God gives to beast his food, and young raven which cry (147:9; 36:6)*
3. God loves all human beings
 - *But I say unto you, Love your enemies (...) 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. (Matt. 5:44-48)*
4. God loves His elect or chosen people
 - *According as He has chosen us in Him (...) in love having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of the glory of His grace (Eph. 1:4-6)*

B. His love is revealed clearest in the sending of His Son: 1 John 4:9

1. the gift of His Son is the greatest gift of God
2. the plan of salvation originated out of love
 - *Had not God's love resolved to save doomed man, all His other perfections must have been employed and displayed in destroying him. But love set its heart upon man, yearned to save him, and resolved to conceive a plan that harmonized all other attributes to provide for their redemption. (O. Winslow)*

C. What will hearing these truths about God do to you?

1. They either *repel* or *attract* (Ex. 3:4-5)
2. They will change you if believed (2 Cor. 3:18; Ex. 3:6)
 - a. His love is not based on what we are or do: *He always loves **first***
 - b. His love knows of no dimension: *God and Love are synonyms*
 - c. His love known will change your attitude toward other men