

March 16, 2014 THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD (Part VI)
God's PARTICULAR Love
I John 4: 1-13

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD (TROG) is the MOST important (single) piece of information sinners need to know and understand because: **ONLY** by THAT righteousness is the (true/the PARTICULAR) LOVE of God revealed.

We all start out thinking we KNOW the love of God. **But**, God's LOVE for sinners is NOT something we know (by nature). **God's** LOVE for sinners is a REVEALED love. **God** has to make it known. **ONLY** under the Gospel; **ONLY** where the righteousness of God is revealed is God's love made known.

Today, I want us to see four reasons why God's love is PARTICULAR love: 1. **Because** of its OBJECTS. 2. **Because** of its PROVISION. 3. **Because** of its RESULTS (FOR its objects). 4. **Because** of its EFFECT (ON/IN its objects).

God's love is PARTICULAR love, first because of its (particular) OBJECTS.

Look at 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.**

8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

“BELOVED, let US love one another.” John is writing about PARTICULAR love. **It is** love for PARTICULAR sinners. **John** is exhorting sinners to love PARTICULAR sinners with a PARTICULAR love. **It is** love for the beloved. **He is** exhorting those beloved of God to love others who are beloved of God.

He says pretty plainly those who DO love the sinners whom God loves ARE born of God and know God. **And**, that those who DO NOT love those whom God loves do NOT know God.

But, how can we know WHO to love? **Who** are the beloved? **Well! They** are the brethren. **The** beloved are those who have the same (spiritual) Father. **They** are those who are born of God. **They** are those who in time in each generation come to know God as a just God and Savior. (In this context) they are those who test the spirits to determine whether they are (or whether they are not) of God.

Look at 1 John 4: 1 **“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”**

The beloved are those who try the spirits. **They** test them against God's Word. How so? **They** prove the spirits by their testimony of Christ.

Look at 1 John 4: 2-3 “Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.”

To “confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh” is MORE than just stating the FACTS that Christ lived and died and was buried and arose. **From** beginning to end the Scriptures are about a UNIQUE PERSON and the SPECIFIC work He ACCOMPLISHED for EVERY sinner He was given (every OBJECT of God’s love). **To “confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh”** is to preach the PERSON of Christ and the work of Christ (according to the Scriptures). **To** ðconfess notö is to fail to do so.

The Christ of the Scriptures is not God (absolutely considered). **Nor** is He (mere) man. **He** is God and man in one Person. **He** must be both in order to ðfinish the workö He was given. **He** must be both in order to fulfill the prophecies concerning Him. **He** must be both in order to ðsave His people from their sinsö.

He must be man in order to die (shed blood). **He** must be God in order for His sacrifice to have infinite value. **To** say that ðJesus Christ is come in the fleshö is to preach His (true) Person. And, it is to preach His ðfinished workö. It is to preach His ACCOMPLISHED salvation. **Christ’s** work did not provide a POSSIBILITY of salvation. **But**, His work provided a COMPLETE salvation for EVERY sinner He was given in His doing and dying ALONE.

The ðbelovedö are those who ðtest the spiritsö and, (having tested), believe the ðspirit of truthö and reject the ðspirit of errorö.

Look at 1John 4: 4-6 “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. 6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.”

All (even the ðbelovedö) start their (spiritual) journeys in this world under the ðspirit of antichristö. **We** are in league with the ðspirit that now (still) works in the children of disobedienceö (Ephesians 2: 2). **“There** is none that seeketh after God.ö (Romans 3: 11). **All** who are ðignorant of God’s righteousnessö are (automatically) ðgoing about to establish a righteousness of their ownö (Romans 10: 1-3).

All such sinners are under the ðspirit of antichristö. **To** not know WHO God loves is to not know God’s PARTICULAR love. **It is** to be under the ðspirit of antichristö. **That** ðspiritö (of antichrist) NEEDS to be ðovercomeö. **It** NEEDS to be ðovercomeö in ALL (without exception). **And**, THAT spirit WILL BE ðovercomeö in the ðbelovedö. **We** will see later in the lesson, more how the ðbelovedö of God are those who are ðled by the Spirit of Godö. They are those delivered from ðthe spirit of antichristö.

God's LOVE is manifested (i.e. made known) FOR (particular) sinners. **It is** made known FOR the beloved. **It is** made known FOR the (particular) OBJECTS of God's love. **And**, it is made known by its (particular) PROVISION (for them).

To know God's PARTICULAR love is to know WHO He loves. **And**, to know WHO God loves is to know WHAT He has provided for those He loves.

(Outline). **God's** love is PARTICULAR because of its (particular) OBJECTS.

Next, God's love is PARTICULAR because of its (particular) PROVISION. **Who** are the beloved of God? **WHO** are we to love as brethren? **We** are to love those for whom God has made (particular) PROVISION.

Look at 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."**

God's love for sinners is revealed in His PROVISION of everything His holiness and Justice demand of those He loves. **I.e.** God's love has provided (for every one of its objects) all that is required for Him to be Just and Justifier. **What** do God's holiness and Justice demand of sinners? **First**, God's justice demands the JUST punishment; the ETERNAL death of every soul that sins. **Secondly**, God's holiness demands PERFECT righteousness in order for sinners to fellowship with God.

God's LOVE is made known to us (the beloved/the brethren) by the sending of Christ FOR US. **And**, He sent Christ **"that (in order that) we might live through Him."** Might in our vernacular sounds like maybe. But, there is no MAYBE here.

Because God sent His Son; and because Christ came and died, SOMEBODY is going to live; SOMEBODY is going to be saved. **SOMEBODY** is going to live **"through Him"**. **Because** Christ has come, SOMEBODY is going to be finally glorified.

And, that SOMEBODY is EVERY sinner God loved with an everlasting love. **It is** EVERY sinner whom God chose (in Christ) before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blame. **It is** EVERY sinner whom God in love predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son.

It is EVERY sinner Christ was sent for; EVERY sinner He died for. **Christ** is not the Representative of ALL (without exception). **He is** the Representative of those beloved of God. **God** sent Christ that these PARTICULAR sinners should live (eternally) through Him. **And**, they will live because of God's (particular) PROVISION for them. **The** love of God is NOT manifested towards any sinner who perishes.

Look at 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."**

This is the ESSENCE of God's PARTICULAR love for those sinners who are its objects. **God** did not send His Son to make sinners (in general) savable. **He did** not send Christ to make salvation possible. **Rather**, He sent His Son to save US (the PARTICULAR objects of His PARTICULAR love). **He** sent Christ to do everything required by His Holiness and Justice to deliver US from the

wrath we deserve. **He** sent Christ to provide US the righteousness required for US to stand unchangeably (eternally) righteous in His sight.

He sent Christ to be the **õPROPITIATION** for OUR sins. **I.e.** He sent Christ to be the penalty bearing sacrifice that met and satisfied all the requirements of God's Holiness and Justice for US (the objects of His love).

Look at John 13: 1 **“Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.”**

That does not JUST mean that Christ loved His own until His life ended. **The** word **õendõ** is completion/finishing. **It is** the same word as John 19: 30, **õIt is finished.õ** **It** means Christ loved His own until **õHe finished the work He was given to doõ**. **He** loved His own until He had done everything necessary for His own to be free from sin's guilt and righteous in God's sight.

(Outline), **God's** love is PARTICULAR because of its PARTICULAR objects, and because of its (particular) PROVISION.

Next, God's love is PARTICULAR because of its (particular) RESULTS: **First**, because of its (particular) RESULTS FOR sinners. **Christ's** death was not an ATTEMPT of save, but was, rather, the ACCOMPLISHMENT of salvation for EVERY sinner He was given. **God's** PROVISION has (already) done something FOR the sinners He loves.

Look at Romans 4: 23-25, **“Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;**

24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”

Christ's death was EFFECTUAL. **It had** (certain) RESULTS for EVERY sinner He died for. **The** sins of THESE sinners are **õput awayõ**. **These** sinners are NOT condemned (Romans 8: 1). **Instead** of their being condemned (as they deserve), they are eternally/unchangeably JUSTIFIED. **God** declares them forever righteous based on the imputed righteousness of Christ, their Substitute and Savior.

If Christ was **õdelivered for YOUR offensesõ**; **if** Christ **õbore YOUR sins in His body on the treeõ**, **then**, you are not facing the (eternal) wrath of God. **You** are not facing any punishment from God. **All** the wrath and punishment you deserved from God, Christ bore in your place.

And, if Christ was **õdelivered for YOUR offensesõ**, then, **õHe was raised again because of YOUR justificationõ**. **He** has done EVERYTHING required for God to declare you eternally righteous in His sight. **SAME** names, **SAME** number. **If He** bore your sins, you are justified by His righteousness. **That** is God's testimony in the resurrection of Christ.

There is no such thing (in the scriptures) as Christ bearing your sins and you ending up under the eternal wrath of God ANYWAY. **That** is unscriptural (even blasphemous).

As long as you think that God **õlovesõ EVERYBODY**, and that Christ died for EVERYBODY, you do NOT know the love of God. **As** long as you think that God **õlovesõ EVERYBODY**, and that Christ died for EVERYBODY, you are denying the EFFECTUAL nature of Christ's death. **You**

are denying the PROPITIATION Christ made for those God gave Him. **You** are denying that His sacrifice SATISFIED the law and justice of God.

You are denying God's Justice and Love in declaring sinners righteous based on Christ's righteousness imputed ALONE. **You** are denying God's CLEAR testimony of Christ in the scriptures.

(Outline). **God's** love is PARTICULAR love for PARTICULAR sinners with a (particular) PROVISION which has (particular) RESULTS (for) its objects. **It is** love FOR those who were chosen in Christ before the world began; **those** redeemed by Christ on the Cross; **those** who stand not guilty (not even chargeable with sin), but who are unchangeably righteous in God's sight based on Christ's righteousness imputed ALONE.

And, the last thing I'll say, God's love is PARTICULAR because of its EFFECT (on and in) those He loves. **God's** PARTICULAR love has a (certain) EFFECT on every one of its objects. **We** love God. **And**, we KNOW we love God because we love those whom God loves.

Look at 1 John 4: 20 **"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"**

Our love for THIS God, and THIS Savior, and THESE brethren is one of the MAIN evidences that we are saved. **Our** love here, (this PARTICULAR love for the brethren), is one of the main EVIDENCES that we (truly) are OBJECTS of God's love.

We started out our lesson with, 1 John 4: 7 **"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God."**

Now, look at 1 John 4: 11 **"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."**

Those sinners who learn of God's PARTICULAR love for its (particular) OBJECTS and its (particular) PROVISION and the (particular) RESULTS of that love FOR those OBJECTS, (those sinners) RESPOND to that love. **It is** a unique (a PARTICULAR) response. **We** love those whom God loves. **We** share the same faith. **We** take sides with the brethren (the beloved) in the Gospel. **We** obey God with an obedience we never had before (regeneration).

Look at John 13: 34 **"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."**

The love Christ commands here is PARTICULAR love. **We** all love (generally speaking). **But** this is PARTICULAR love. **THIS** love is NEW to every born again believer.

This command is obeyed ONLY by those born of God and taught of God because God's PARTICULAR love is only known by those born and taught of God.

THIS (particular) love (for those whom God loves) is one of the main evidences that we are born of God.

Look at 1 John 4:12-13 **"No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us."**

13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.”

Without the Spirit (in regeneration), there is no knowledge (therefore, no õperfectingö; no completing) of Godø love. **But**, where the Spirit dwells (where He has taken up residence), there is the knowledge of Godø love TOWARD its objects and the õperfectingö (completing) of Godø love IN its objects.

The Scriptures are all about the love of God toward its objects. “**Jacob** have I loved.ö The Scriptures are all about Godø love for the Jacobs. **How** is Godø love õperfectedö (i.e. made complete) IN õUSö (NOT in ALL, but in US (its objects)? **It is** õperfectedö through His Spirit who õwill guide us into all truthö.

Look at John 16: 13 “**Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.**”

“**For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.**” (Romans 8: 14). “The Spirit of truthö will guide USö (i.e. He will guide the objects of Godø love). **He** will õguide usö unto a Just God and Savior. **He** will õguide usö unto Christø FINISHED work (perfect satisfaction). **He** will õguide usö toward Christø COMPLETE salvation for those whom God loves. **He** will õguide usö towards the righteousness Christ worked out. **He** will õguide usö away from any righteousness of our own making. How will He do that?

Look on at John 16: 14-15 “**He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.** 15 **All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.**”

“The Spirit of truthö will õtake the things of Christ: Person, sacrifice, righteousness, salvation. **And**, He will show them unto õusö (the objects of Godø love).

We know that God does NOT love all sinners. **But**, (more importantly), we know those whom God DOES love. **We** know them; we recognize them by their doctrine. **We** recognize them by their Gospel (their PARTICULAR testimony of Christ).

Look at John 6: 45 “**It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.**”

The whole point here is that without the love of God manifested toward EVERY object of that love in His provision of a Savior who put away sin and established everlasting righteousness for those He loves, WITHOUT THAT, there is no knowledge of Godø love. **We** are ignorant of Godø love until then. **And**, we are VOID of any love FOR God until then.

Look at 1 John 4: 19 “**We love him, because he first loved us.**”

This love FOR God is not automatic. **GOD’S LOVE** for His people is everlasting. **But**, OUR LOVE for God has a beginning. **We** do NOT love God until we KNOW that He (first) loved us. **And**, we do not KNOW that He (first) loved us UNTIL we see Him providing a (true) Savior, (not a POTENTIAL Savior), but a (true) Savior who accomplished everything His holiness and justice

demanded of us in the way of punishment for our sins and in the way of righteousness which demands our eternal blessedness, even unto final glory in heaven.

In I Corinthians 13 we read this statement (paraphrase), “Love suffers long. Love never fails”. Paul (of course) is writing about God’s PARTICULAR (and perfect) love. God’s love suffers long. God’s love NEVER fails.

God’s PARTICULAR (and perfect) love did not fail to set Christ forth a propitiation and thereby deliver the OBJECTS of His love from the eternal wrath we deserved and give us an unchangeable standing of justification (PROVISION). And, that SAME love has not failed, (not can it fail), to deliver in time in each generation those same OBJECTS from the öspirit of antichristö. That SAME love cannot fail to deliver (every) OBJECT of God’s love from the self righteousness and bondage that (necessarily) accompanies the ignorance of God’s righteousness (EFFECT).

Look at Hebrews 2: 14-15 “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

Christ became Incarnate in order to deliver His people. “Destroy” means render powerless. Satan does not have the power to put anyone to death. His power is to hold sinners (even the elect) under the öfear of deathö, (the THREAT of punishment).

By the Cross Christ rendered Satan powerless to hold US (the objects of God’s love) in condemnation. AND, by the knowledge of Christ (in the Gospel), the öbelovedö are delivered from our bondage and fear. We must attribute our deliverance to God’s love. It is God’s PARTICULAR (and perfect) love that delivers us from the (eternal) wrath we deserve. And, it is God’s PARTICULAR (and perfect) love that delivers us our öfear of deathö (fear of punishment).

Look at 1 John 4: 17-18 “Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”

“Perfect love casts out fear.” When God’s PARTICULAR (and perfect) love is öperfectedö (completed) IN US, it delivers us from the fear of punishment that holds us in bondage until then.

That is the TRUE love of God toward (every) one of its OBJECTS. It is PARTICULAR love for PARTICULAR sinners, because of its (particular) PROVISION, and its (particular) RESULTS FOR those sinners and because of its (particular) EFFECT (in) those sinners.

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD is the MOST important (single) piece of information sinners need to know and understand because: ONLY by THAT righteousness is the (true) LOVE of God revealed. And, it is only by our interest in and value for THAT righteousness (God’s PROVISION for those He loves), and our love for THEM (the öbelovedö), that we know the love OF God or demonstrate any (true) love FOR God.

God's love is PARTICULAR: Because of its OBJECTS; Because of its PROVISION; Because of its RESULTS (for) its objects; and Because of its EFFECT (in) its objects.

By Mark Pannell