

# God Is Love

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Straight Paths Bible Church

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.

## I. God IS love.

- A. To know what love is we must look at God.
  - 1. His character (holiness)
  - 2. His treatment of a rebellious mankind (grace)
  - 3. His reaction to rejection and hatred by those He loves (mercy)
  - 4. His judgment of those who mistreat those who serve Him and love Him (justice)
  - 5. THAT is love
- B. God is NOT wrath
- C. God is NOT mercy
- D. God is NOT grace
- E. God IS love.

## II. All that God does is motivated by love.

“For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son ...”

- A. It is the basic attribute of God that is behind everything He does.
- B. It is love that causes Him to bless and provide for us, as well as those that are his enemies.
- C. Love is not narrow-minded or selfish, but takes the broad and the long look, and always acts for the good of the whole.
  - 1. God is no respecter of persons, so He will not do anything that is not going to work for the greater good of the whole.
  - 2. To pray in the will of God we must also have this in our view.
- D. When He punishes the wicked and curses their fields and their flocks, the motivating factor behind it all is love - not wrath or vengeance.
  - 1. The motive of God’s heart is to cause them to recognize their injustice toward Him and to realize that they need Him
- E. God is not motivated by anger without love.
  - 1. He doesn’t lay aside his love when He is angry – He never acts in anger without love.
  - 2. He does sometimes get angry, but it is because of his love.
  - 3. The carnal person gets angry because of his selfishness and pride – God never does such a thing.
  - 4. A righteous person gets angry because of evil and injustice done to others; but he should not let anger control him because of evil and injustice done to himself. (this is true cross-bearing)
- F. The love of God is the greatest force for overcoming evil and turning sinners to righteousness– not the wrath of God.

1. The wrath of God is what puts an end to evil that refuses to respond to love.
  2. This is why the love of God should be dwelt upon much more than the wrath of God.
  3. The wrath of God is not what wins sinners to himself – neither is the wrath of man what convinces sinners to turn to God.
- G. Charity (love) never faileth – wrath often does.
1. True charity never ceases – it continues in spite of everything.
  2. True charity is always first in the mind and heart of God.
  3. Wrath comes and goes and is only sometimes the reason for God’s action.
- H. Mercy is a product of his love – not the essence of what God is - love is what God is.
- I. Grace is also a product of his love and not the essence of his being – God is LOVE.

III. If we have a saving knowledge of Christ we will also be motivated by love.

- A. We will have the same heart as God and we will be constrained by his love.

[1 John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.](#)

[2 Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:](#)

- B. It is the grand mark of one who knows God – he is motivated by love.
- C. He doesn’t live and act under the dominion of passions and lusts, but under the influence of love.
1. What he does in the service of God, he does because of his love for God, and his desire to honor and please Him.
    - a) Going to church, giving, reading the Word of God, and praying, etc.
  2. Likewise, his treatment of, and dealings with others, is motivated by love and not anger, pride, wrath, jealousy, envy, or some other passion.
- D. Love is the force that delivers us from sin.
1. It isn’t the fear of the wrath of God that causes us to turn from sin and self – it is our love for God that does it.
  2. It isn’t some injection of divine power that gives us the strength to overcome sin and the world – it is the love in our heart for the Savior who died for us, and our love for others that prevents us from injuring them.
- E. This is why so many fall out of the way – they make a start at religion, but are serving God out of fear, or duty, and not out of love.
1. Their motives are still selfish, so they do not do what they do out of love for God and others, but out of love for self.
- F. If you really love someone you are willing to perish for them.
- G. If you really love someone it never ceases. *“Charity never faileth”*
1. Their sin may make it hard or impossible for you to express your love for them fully, but it never ceases.
  2. Human love may wax cold, but divine love is steady and does not fail because it is not reciprocated, or even if evil is returned instead.
- H. Love is the ONLY reason that those who are really saved keep on serving God through whatever circumstances.

IV. God’s love is what wins the heart of the sinner.

- A. Many have been misled by submitting to an angry God who must be appeased by their repentance and servitude or He will destroy them.
  - 1. They start out serving God out of fear and not out of love.
- B. The fear of the Lord is the BEGINNING of knowledge, but it isn't the end.
  - 1. Realizing what God CAN and ought do with you, and then realizing what He DID to keep from doing that with you reveals to your heart the LOVE of God.

*The fear of God is that "astonished reverence" of which the saintly Faber wrote. I would say that it may grade anywhere from its basic element-the terror of the guilty soul before a holy God-to the fascinated rapture of the worshipping saint.*

- C. "Oh How I Love Jesus" is not as deep an understanding of love as "Oh What A Wonder That Jesus Loves Me"
- D. How can a sinner spurn such love?
  - 1. For those who can and do there is a hell and unrepentant, defiant sinners deserve to go there.

1 John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.