

The Love Of God

1 John 4:7-21

(All Scriptures NASB 1995 Unless Otherwise Noted)

The Love Of God

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

(1 John 4:7-11)

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"No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him."

(1 John 4:12-16)

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"By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us. If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also."

(1 John 4:17-21)

The Declarations God's Love

- **John 3:16** Declares the DEGREE of God's love.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

(John 3:16 NKJV)

The Declarations God's Love

- **John 3:16** Declares the DEGREE of God's love.

- God "so" loved – Greek "houtos"
"in this manner," "thus," "so" (Thayer)

- He Gave His Son. **Philippians 2:5-8;**
Matthew 27:27-54

The Declarations God's Love

- This is how a husband loves his wife.

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her..." (Ephesians 5:25)

The Declarations God's Love

- This is how a mother loves her child.

"Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children..." (Titus 2:3-4)

The Declarations God's Love

- This is how a soldier loves his country.

*"The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus."
(2 Timothy 2:2-3)*

The Declarations God's Love

- **Romans 5:8** declares the **OBJECTS** of God's love – us!

*"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
(Romans 5:8)*

- **John 3:16** also declares the **OBJECT** of God's love – the world!

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16 NKJV)

The Declarations God's Love

- **Ephesians 2:1-2** declares the **OBJECTS** of God's love – sinners.

"And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience." (Ephesians 2:1-2)

The Declarations God's Love

- **Sin defined:**

"Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness." (1 John 3:4)

- **What sin does:**

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short that it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear." (Isaiah 59:1-2)

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■ **Sin carries the death penalty:**

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

(Romans 6:23)

"Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

(Revelation 20:14-15)

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■ **What Christ did (prophesied by Isaiah approximately 750 BC):**

"Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him." **(Isaiah 53:1-3)**

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"Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him." **(Isaiah 53:4-6)**

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"He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth. By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due? His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death, because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth."

(Isaiah 53:7-9)

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"But the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, and the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, and He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors." **(Isaiah 53:10-12)**

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■ **What Christ did:**

"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." **(2 Corinthians 5:21)**

"...and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed." **(1 Peter 2:24)**

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■ What Christ did:

"But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings." (Hebrews 2:9-10)

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■ Romans 8 declares the CONSTANCY of God's love.

"Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, 'For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.' But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:35-39)

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■ Nothing can separate us from God's love.

■ But we can separate ourselves from a relationship with God.

"But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear." (Isaiah 59:2)

"I have spread out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in the way which is not good, following their own thoughts..." (Isaiah 65:2)

The Declarations God's Love

■ 1 John 4:9-10 Declares the DESIGN of God's love.

"By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:9-10)

The Declarations God's Love

■ The DESIGN of God's love...

■ That we might have life.

"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life." (John 5:39-40)

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10)

The Declarations God's Love

■ The DESIGN of God's love...

■ That we might have life.

"So Jesus said to the twelve, 'You do not want to go away also, do you?' Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.'" (John 6:67-68)

"Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name." (John 20:30-31)

The Declarations God's Love

■ The **DESIGN** of God's love...

- He became a ransom.

"...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28)

- He became our propitiation.

"...and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world." (1 John 2:2)

The Declarations God's Love

■ God's love provides:

- Life for the spiritually dead.

"But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)..." (Ephesians 2:4-5)

(See also Luke 15)

The Declarations God's Love

■ God's love provides:

- Redemption for those enslaved to sin.

"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus." (Romans 3:23-26)

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■ God's love provides:

- Freedom from the bondage of sin.

"But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness." (Romans 6:17-18)

"Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death." (Romans 8:1-2)

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■ 1 John 3:1-3 declares the **REWARD** of God's love.

"See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure." (1 John 3:1-3)

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■ We are changed:

- From sinners into children of God:

"For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!'" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him." (Romans 8:14-17)

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- We are changed:
 - From prisoners in the domain of darkness into citizens of the kingdom of Jesus Christ:

"For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."
(Colossians 1:13-14)

"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself."
(Philippians 3:20-21)

Motives Of Love

- Admiration.
 - This was not what motivated God's love for man. **Genesis 6:5; Romans 1:28-32**
 - This is a motive that causes us to love God.
1 John 4:19; Titus 3:3-7

Motives Of Love

- Gratitude.
 - This was not what motivated God to love us.
Romans 3:23
 - Man's love for God should be motivated by what God has done for us. **Colossians 3:15; Romans 1:21**
 - **Psalm 118:19-21; 28-29**
 - **Psalm 136:1-3; 26**
 - **Psalm 138:1-4**
 - **Psalm 139:14**

Motives Of Love

- Pity.
 - This was a motive for God to love us.
Proverbs 14:12; Isaiah 55:8-9; Ephesians 2:1-10
 - It is not a motive for our love for God!

Obligations Of Love

- God is not obligated to man. **Isaiah 29:16**
- What obligations must we assume if we love God?
 1. We must live for Christ. **Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Matthew 6:33**
 2. We must love one another.
John 13:34-35
 3. We must obey his commandments.
John 14:15; 21-24

God's Plan of Salvation

HEAR THE WORD
James 1:21-22; Romans 10:17
BELIEVE IN JESUS
Romans 1:16; Hebrews 11:6
REPENT OF SINS
Acts 17:30-31; Luke 13:3
CONFESS HIS NAME
Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10
BE BAPTIZED FOR FORGIVENESS
Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16
REMAIN OBEDIENT
Hebrews 5:9; 1 Corinthians 15:58