

Deuteronomy 7:1-11; John 15:1-10– God’s Glory is the Greatest Good (pt. 2) – Sermon Outline

Intro: How is God’s glory seen in His loving His own special, chosen people?

Need: God’s love is not cheap or powerless. It is a love that purifies, sanctifies, saves not just from the penalty of sin, but the power of sin, implanting a holy love in the hearts of His people to love Him in return by keeping His commandments. This love is not found in sinners, but given to sinners, to redeem sinners.

Theme: The LORD loves His people by bringing them out of their sin to glorify Himself.

I. God’s glory in loving His people out of their sin.

- A. Deut. 7:7, the LORD loves His people not because of them, but in spite of them, to glorify Himself.
1. Dt. 7:6, being God’s holy, special, treasured people depends upon obedience/keeping covenant, truly loving God, per Ex. 19:5-6. That obedient love is what God gives in Christ to His elect people in love!
 2. Ex. 19:5-6, “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.
 3. Deut. 7:7, the word “love” is the idea of attachment, friendship, choosing, as we saw last week.
 - a. Dt. 10:15-16, “The LORD delighted only in your fathers, *to love them*; and *He chose* their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as it is this day. Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your hearts...” The patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc., were loved, and the covenant was made with Abraham to his descendants, fulfilled in Christ as seen in Lk. 1:67-73:
 - b. *Now his father [John the Baptist’s] Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: “Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, **For He has visited and redeemed His people**, And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David, As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who have been since the world began, That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us, **To perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant, The oath which He swore to our father Abraham**: To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.*
 - c. God performs the mercy/love for His covenant/chosen people to redeem them in order to serve/glorify Him in all righteousness, before Him all the days of our lives.
 - d. This points toward eternal life of holy service in heaven. God is glorified in His loving, saving mercy, in both His acts of redeeming His people, and in the fruit of His people giving Him the glory/praise due to Him.
 - e. This is why the Lord is “attached” in love to His people as Dt. 7:7 says -- for His glory and the good/holiness/redemption of His people. His 1,000 generation covenant is for His name’s sake.
- B. Deut. 7:8-10, The Lord’s redeeming love shows His covenant faithfulness, His glory, as the “*faithful God*” who keeps covenant and mercy/kesed/faithfulness with those who love/keep His commands.
1. This is why Jesus tells His disciples, “you are my friends if you love and keep my commandments”.
 2. In Jn. 14:15-23 Jesus says if you keep His commands, you love Him, and will be loved by the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is given to such in order to know, love, and obey the Lord.
 3. John 15:1-10: “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me,

and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. **By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit: so you will be [prove to be] My disciples.** “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. **If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.**

- a. True, while we were enemies Christ died for us, and yet here Christ calls His disciples His friends, and says no greater love is there than to lay down your life for your friends.
 - b. He calls them friends and not merely servants because He has made known to them all that He has heard from the Father.
 - c. 15:16 is key, a great comfort, and shows **God’s glory in choosing and loving us:** “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”
 - d. What God commands, faithfulness/fruit He provides to His elect alone through Christ!
4. Jesus says to His disciples in John 15:8, that the Father is glorified by their bearing much fruit.
 5. Bearing fruit in fact proves that they are His disciples. A disciple of Christ bears much fruit in Christ.
 6. This is done by abiding in Christ’s love, for as the Father loved Him, He has loved His disciples, and they abide/continue in His love by keeping His commandments.
 7. This reflects Christ, who kept His Father’s commandments and abided in His love, Jn. 15:9-10.
 8. Christ goes on to say they are to love one another, even as He has loved them, calling them friends.
 9. **So Dt. 7:9-10 is fulfilled in Christ, both in those who love Him, and those who disobey/don’t love Him.**
 10. Those who love Christ are loved by the Father/Son, those who do not are cast out and burned in hell.
- C. **For God is holy and will not be mocked by having a people who are sinful/unholy.**
1. That would not be true redemption, true removal out of sin unto God/heaven and His holiness.
 2. **Dt. 7:10**, the Lord destroys those who hate him “**to their face**”, they will see His judgment upon them!
 3. This warning applies to Israel, to God’s people, indeed to the Church today. He will destroy His new covenant people who are unfaithful to Him, who do not bear good fruit, do not keep His commands.
 4. Justification is by faith alone, but salvation, encompassing sanctification, glorification, etc., is not by faith alone, but good works/faith working through love/Spirit’s fruit done by those redeemed in Christ.
 5. God’s saving love does not merely justify with Christ’s righteousness, but sanctifies by Christ’s inward working of His Spirit, so that we keep His commandments in love more and more.
 6. Finally, His love glorifies us with Himself before the Father, as the spotless, holy bride of the Son!
- D. **Later in John 17 Christ prays all His people would behold His glory in heaven & receive His love:**
1. “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them **Your name**, and will declare it, that the **love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.**” **God’s hallowed name/glory & love for His people is seen again.**
 2. This will matter more next week, as we see that in glory God’s name is written on our foreheads, we see Him face to face, etc.
 3. God’s name that was made known as glorious before Christ came, by destroying Pharaoh and his armies, by destroying the wicked, pagan nations, and even by destroying His own rebellious, wayward people, all testifies that there is no one like our God.
 4. He is holy and righteous and just, and will give His glory to no other. And yet, He will give His glory to us, without giving it to no other. How can that be? We shall see next week.
- E. **Rom. 11:19-22 reveals that He gives His love/mercy to all people, Jew and Gentile alike, for His glory:**
1. “You will say then, “Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.” Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. Therefore consider the goodness and

severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.”

2. The rest of Romans 11 shows that God has confined Israel to a hardening to show mercy to Gentiles, to in turn provoke the Jewish people to turn from disobedience to faith and receive mercy again, “For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all”, **Rom. 11:32**.
 3. Why does God do this? To show His glory, to lead to Paul’s doxology, glorifying God, in 11:33-36:
 4. *“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! “For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?” “Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?” For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.”*
- F. Deut. 7:7b, God redeems “the least of all peoples”.
1. This is why He can redeem Paul, set His love upon Him, who calls himself the chief of sinners for persecuting the Christians before His conversion as a Pharisee.
 2. He can save a wretch like you and me, and He does save great wretches, to show His great love, which reveals His great glory. While we were yet sinners, great sinners, Christ died for us.
 3. Israel was constantly wayward, and we see God’s covenant mercies continue, and will renew again as they are provoked to jealousy at the Gentiles being grafted in with them as God’s Church/body of Christ. And we saw the warnings in Romans 11 that we will be broken off if we become unfaithful.
 4. But the Lord through it all is faithful to His people He has chosen to set His mercy/redeeming love on!
 5. Though we are often wayward, prone to wander and leave the God we love, He will not let us go.
 6. He will not let us go on in our sins. His love for us is bound up with His love for His holy name, His love for His Son in giving Him a bride to purchase with His blood.
 7. God has staked His own blood, His own name, and poured into you His own Holy Spirit to secure your holiness, your love and devotion to Him, to glorify Himself. Will you refuse to trust, love, and obey Him? Will you demand He love you though you continue to sin without repentance?
 8. Where is your love for the Lord who has done all in Christ to save you, who deserves obedience?
 9. Let us never grow weary of serving the Lord or say He and His law is too demanding. He is worthy!
 10. Further, His law is a delight for those who love the LORD. It enables us to live godly lives, to fully bear the image of God, to be like God Almighty. For God’s law is a reflection of His glorious self.
- G. **CONCLUSION:** The Lord’s glory in His love is that it is Sovereign (His choice, as we saw last week), and that it is redeeming (which we will see even more of next week). It is a sanctifying, glorifying love.
1. Salvation is not merely out of the penalty of your sin, hell, but the power/slavery to sin.
 2. In Christ, we go from being slaves to sin to God’s slave, Romans 6 tells us this explicitly.
 3. If you do not desire to be owned by Christ, truly redeemed/bought with the price of His blood, in order to serve Him as His slave, and yet as the Father’s loved Son, then you do not know/desire His love.
 4. You hate His glory because it disrupts your love for sin, and calls you to a higher love for God/holiness. But those who have been trained by His discipline, who bear the fruit of His holy Spirit, delight in holiness, in putting off sin and putting on Christ. They get righteous pleasure in killing sin.
 5. Christ has come to establish/build up His kingdom. His kingdom is a kingdom of love, which means it is a kingdom that magnifies God’s holy, righteous love, that saves us out of sin to become holy like Him. This magnifies His glory, and as we magnify His glory in righteousness, we are hallowed in Him!
 6. So may each of you truly hallow the Lord in your lives, rejoice in His covenant mercy, His covenant love for You, choosing you out of your sin, bringing you into His grace and holiness, for His glory.
 7. May you prove to be the Lord’s special, treasured possession, as His love gives what His law demands, both Christ’s righteousness covering you, and His Spirit working within you to obey Him!
 8. May you gladly obey the Lord, and say as God’s people these words from 1 Chronicles 16:34-36,

9. *“Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. And say, “Save us, O God of our salvation; Gather us together, and deliver us from the Gentiles, To give thanks to Your holy name, To triumph in Your praise.” Blessed be the Lord God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting! And all the people said, “Amen!” and praised the Lord.”*
10. Let us pray.

II. God’s glory in redeeming His people.

A.