

The Love of God in 3-D Part 7

Coast Community Church Pastor's Class; Earl Miles; 9-17-17

Review

God's love is real but different depending who or what is in view. *Does God love me?*

Yes, because God is love and He can do no other.

Yes, because all that He does is the overflow of His love for His Son.

Yes, because God loves all His creation.

Yes, because God loves all those created in His image.

But ...

God has a special love for His people.

God's love for His Son is different than His love for creation.

God's love for mankind is different than His love for creation.

Why is God's relationship to Israel such an important matter?

God's Love for His People

God's love for His people (those in union with Christ) is different than His love for all mankind (those in His image). God's love for His bride, His children and His body is different than His love for the rest of mankind and creation.

- Revelation 19:7
- Ephesians 5:25-27
- Ephesians 5:28-30
- 1 John 3:1
- Zephaniah 3:17
- Jeremiah 32:39-41
- Isaiah 62:4-5
- Luke 15:20-24
- Luke 10:27-37
- Romans 8:28-39

God loves His people like someone loves his wife or his child or his own body and is fully committed, with all His heart, to loving them with all that He is and all that He has, for as long as He lives!

Two 'Huge' Loose Ends

- How are we to understand God's love for His people in light of God's relationship to national Israel? (Romans 8:39)

- How are we to understand God's love for all men in light of His hatred and wrath?

Is national Israel 'His people' and does God love them in a different way than He loves all the other nations? Is it as simple as 'Israel was the OT people of God' and the 'Church is the NT people of God'? The discussion of God's love for His people in Romans 8 raises questions about God's love for His people in the OT, national Israel, which Paul addresses in chapters 9-11! Some believe that if you say the promises of God in the OT to Israel are fulfilled in Christ and the church then you are a 'replacement theologian' (ie, the Church replaces Israel). Some believe that if you say that God isn't finished with national Israel and still has some promises to fulfill to national Israel then you are a 'dispensationalist' (ie, one track for Israel and one track for the Church). This is a false dilemma.

Scriptures:

- Psalm 47:4
- Psalm 136
- Deuteronomy 7:6-14; 10:12-22; 9:7, 24; 28:1, 15, 63; 30:9-10
- Joshua 24:20
- 2 Chronicles 36:15-16
- Psalm 78:52, 62
- Hosea 1:9; 11:1
- Malachi 1:2-3
- 1 Corinthians 10:1-12
- Romans 8-11 (8:39; 9:2-3, 6-8, 27; 10:1; 11:1-2, 5, 12, 15, 25-32, esp. 28)
- Psalm 5:4-6
- Romans 12:9

God's love for (goodness toward in heart and action) national Israel includes:

- His choice of them out of all the other nations of the earth
- Their salvation out of Egypt and gift of the land of Canaan
- The special blessings given to them (temporal blessings)
- Their role in the salvation of God's people through the Messiah
- A real love for all national Israel
- A real hatred/wrath against national Israel
- A blessing for faithfulness to the Old Covenant and curses for unfaithfulness
- National judgement in various ways throughout their history
- The promises of God to Israel fulfilled in Jesus and His Church
- The promises of God to Israel to be fulfilled in the future
- A spiritual salvation for a remnant but not for all the descendants of Abraham
- A mass salvation of the Jewish people at the end of history
- A love/hate relationship (as it is with all those outside of Christ).